

-Brittan likely to endorse changes in firearms training for the police

By Stewart Tendler, Crime Reporter

Changes in the training and assessment of police officers no carry firearms are to be discussed by Mr Leon Brittan, Home Secretary, with the Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police, Sir Kenneth ...

reactions to stress and give better tactical instruction. Future operations involving police with firearms in London will always have a senior firearms specialist on hand to give advice. ...

issue of firearms but there is no suggestion that guns used in this operation [the police operation in which Mr Waldorf was shot in mistake for a wanted man] were issued without proper authority or to officers who were not regarded as competent to use them. ...

Airline to fight hive-off

By Michael Bailey, Transport Editor

Lord King British Airways chairman yesterday affirmed his determination to fight any attempt to split the airline. And the airline's trade unions said they were "outraged" at British Caledonian's proposal to hive off £200m of British Airways routes and assets. ...

Shipyards pin hope for peace on Acas

By David Felton, Labour Correspondent

Unions and management in the shipbuilding industry are meeting in the Advisory Conciliation and Arbitration Service to produce a fresh initiative to prevent the national shipyard strike called for January 6. ...

Greenham women Cheering up a damp camp

By Rodney Cowton, Defence Correspondent

Peace and good will to all women has been the message at the Greenham Common camp in Berkshire, where more than 100 women and children will be celebrating a cold, damp and dedicated Christmas. ...

Submarines Sinking a few

By Rodney Cowton, Defence Correspondent

Several hundred Britons will be passing their Christmas many fathoms deep. They are the crews of the few submarines on patrol in waters ranging from the South Atlantic around the Falkland Islands to the wintry North Atlantic and the Barents Sea. ...

The homeless Sheltering from despair

By Rodney Cowton, Defence Correspondent

Kathleen Joyce, aged 20 (left), and Rachel Jarrett, aged 17, are two of London's many thousands of homeless young people who were facing a long Christmas week yesterday. ...



Guardian mole explains

By Our Political Staff

The young civil servant dismissed on Monday for leaking a confidential paper said yesterday his action was taken in the public interest. The paper, used for reports last month in Time Out magazine and The Guardian, showed that private discussions over the possible shape of employment legislation were held between Lord Donaldson, Master of the Rolls, and Mr Michael Quinlan, Permanent Under-Secretary at the Department of Employment. ...

Backing for 'bad law' rebellion

By Our Labour Editor

A top-level official of the Transport and General Workers' Union yesterday supported "rebellion against bad law" and predicted "mounting anger against the Government's labour law reforms. Mr Larry Smith, TGWU executive officer, condemned media criticism of the 21 union leaders who backed an unlawful strike called by the National Graphical Association as "vitriolic even for the gutter editions of the tabloid media". ...

Film chain monopoly challenged

By David Hewson, Arts Correspondent

The Government is to break some of the monopolies of film exhibitors and distributors for a trial period on the recommendation of the Monopolies and Mergers Commission. The principal effect will be to bar the practice of restricting popular films to big cinema chains for an initial period, which has been criticized by independents in the cinema business. ...

Benefit plan for asbestos victims

By David Nicholson-Lord

People suffering from lung cancer because of exposure to asbestos will be entitled to state disability benefit under the terms of an unpublished report now being considered by ministers at the Department of Health and Social Security. The report by the Industrial Injuries Advisory Council is a revised version of one published in November last year and partly rejected by the Government. ...

Factory bonus

By Christopher Warman, Property Correspondent

All 1,300 employees at J C Bamford's excavator factory in Rochester, Staffordshire, have been awarded a £265 Christmas Bonus. yesterday there was no consensus among its members for the scheme. ...

Correction

Lady Cox has not been confirmed as chairman of Brent District Health Authority, as stated on December 22. She asks us to say that she has had no discussions about taking over the part-time post. Overseas selling prices ...

Soldier 'died of drink'

By Sapper David Mead

A soldier whose body was flown back from South Georgia this week, died from acute alcohol poisoning, a Home Office pathologist has found. Sapper David Mead, aged 23, of the Royal Engineers, was found dead in his sleeping bag after a "regimental keef-up". ...

Oxford Street flyover proposed

By Christopher Warman, Property Correspondent

A plan to build a flyover the length of Oxford Street in an attempt to restore its place as Britain's leading shopping street has encountered opposition from some of the largest shops, including Selfridges and John Lewis. There is little doubt, particularly after the congestion caused by thousands of Christmas shoppers, that something is needed to improve the street's appearance and accessibility for pedestrians. ...

Farm aid to be suspended

By Hugh Clayton

Payment of cash aid to hundreds of farmers will stop on New Year's Eve when the EEC rules governing them expires. Mr Michael Jopling, Minister of Agriculture, said yesterday however, he was confident a renewal of payments would be allowed at the next meeting of the EEC council of farm ministers on January 10. ...

Advertisement for russell & bromley shoes. Features the company name in a large font, an address list including 77 Brompton Road, SW3, 64 Kings Road, SW3, 81 Knightsbridge, SW1, 24 New Bond Street, W1, 95 Jermyn Street, SW1 (Mens), and 72 Queen Victoria Street, EC4 (Mens). It also lists various retail partners and a shoe sale now on.

Driver kept in custody because court fears further offences

A banned driver, arrested for his second driving offence involving alcohol within a month, was ordered in custody for Christmas yesterday.

Mr Quentin Campbell, the Marlborough magistrate, called for probation reports on Daylan Somasundaram, aged 26, who admitted driving with twice the legal limit of alcohol in his system.

"The remand will be in custody because I fear further offences judging by your past history," Mr Campbell told him, as he ordered a three-week remand.

Somasundaram, of Ellison Road, Streatham, South London, was stopped in Old Oak Road, Shepherd's Bush, London. He was said to have been banned for a year on December 5 for a similar offence.

He also admitted driving without a licence, without insurance, and while disqualified.

Nottinghamshire police disclosed yesterday that only 20 of the 1,521 drivers given breath-tests so far in a Christmas campaign have been over the limit. That compares with 31 positive readings out of the 975 breath tests for the same period last year.

The police said: "We are pleased with the results but do not want to be too complacent just yet because Christmas has not really begun."

In Derbyshire, the police gave breath tests to 642 motorists in the first seven days of their campaign. Only 33 of those tested were over the limit, and a spokesman said the results were encouraging and an improvement on last year.

Lessons for prisoner in Cell 4

By Michael Hornsell

Staring at the mustard-coloured walls of Cell 4 under Grays police station for 48 hours has persuaded David Jones that drinking and driving make a dangerous cocktail.

Jones, aged 21, was released at 8am yesterday, the latest victim of a purge in the Essex town where magistrates are teaching drink-driving offenders a short, sharp lesson.

After forgoing the pleasures of a prisoner's breakfast, he walked to the bus stop, anxiously hoping to confirm that his job was still intact and wondering what his mother, Mrs Joyce Jones, would say when he returned home.

He was the eleventh man in a week to receive a custodial sentence at Grays for driving with excess alcohol, and now faces an 18-month driving ban and the repayment of a £300 fine at £10 a week.

Jones, who earns £100 a week, was driving home to South Ockendon on November 6 when, under the influence of the three pints of beer and two shandies he had drunk at a Guy Fawkes Night party, he swerved to avoid a rabbit, mounted the pavement, skidded on gravel and ended up at 4.30am

halfway through a garden hedge. When two patrolling police officers tested his breath shortly afterwards, they found 63 milligrammes of alcohol per 100 millilitres of breath - nearly double the permitted limit.

After being released, Jones told me: "It's very uncomfortable in there. I felt it was unjust to be put in a cell, though I have nothing against the police. It was the magistrate who put me there."

"I don't know whether this kind of treatment will deter anyone else from drinking and driving but it will deter me from doing it again."

Locked up for nine hours a day in his 10ft by 10ft cell, he felt like a criminal - sharing washbasins, associating with other prisoners in the echoing corridors, kicking a ball in the exercise yard and participating in the normal pastimes, such as cards and games, which prisoners play to pass the time.

His jailer, Police Sergeant Brian Snipe, said: "We probably treat drink-driving offenders a little better than criminals. They are not here to be leaned on, purely to be accommodated. There are three meals a day

Bank action fails and customers stay away

By David Cross

A strike by some bank counter clerks to protest at not receiving a half-day holiday caused only minor inconvenience yesterday.

Although the Banking, Insurance and Finance Union had said that most of its 80,000 members would obey the strike call, the employers said that about 6,000 workers left at noon, when the stoppage began.

A spokesman for the Banking Information Service, which represents the high street banks in England and Wales, said that only 110 of more than 11,000 branches had been closed. Many were small sub-branches.

Support for the strike was concentrated in Manchester, Liverpool, Leeds, Birmingham, east London, Newcastle and Tyne-side.

Barclays described the strike as an object failure.

A random survey of 30 branches in the City, Holborn and the West End of London yesterday afternoon showed that they were all open, although in many there were more closed counters than normal. There were few customers, who were able anyway to use cash dispensing machines.

A small group of union protesters gathered outside the headquarters of the Federation of London Clearing Banks Employers near the Bank of England in Lombard Street, led by their general secretary, Mr Leif Mills. They were accompanied by a Santa Claus and a handful of Bob Cratchits wearing "Save Our Christmas" stickers.

In a lively debate staged for the benefit of reporters, Mr Mills accused Mr Nicholas Cowx, director of the employers' federation, of impersonating Scrooge.

But Mr Cowx said that it was well worth keeping banks open for the benefit of customers, despite union opposition.



Fancy money: Staff at Barclays' Minorities branch, east London, dressed up for work yesterday. (Photograph: Suresh Karadia)

Food store bonanza

Christmas taste for the exotic

By Robin Young

Toysshops and department stores emptied yesterday as shoppers turned their attention to laying in supplies of food and drink. Britons, the retailers agreed, are deeply traditional about their festive fare, but for most this Christmas will be the most lavish.

Not only shall we be consuming our usual 10 million turkeys, but an increasing demand is reported for geese, beef, hams, duckling and game. There is still a consistent call for sprouts, but calabrese and mangetouts are selling better than ever as well.

The Christmas fruit bowl will never have been so cosmopolitan before with Israeli kumquats, Greek Lychees, Brazilian paw-paws, Kenyan mangoes and New Zealand kiwis augmenting traditional supplies of chestnuts, clementines, dates and nuts. Yet none of those seems likely to dull the national appetite for Christmas pudding and mince pies.

A spokesman for Tesco said: "There is a move toward the luxury end of the market this year. There is a definite trend away from frozen turkey toward fresh and chilled. We are selling lots of smoked salmon and special cheeses like Brie with peppers and soft cheese with herbs, as well as the traditional Stiltons. People are also paying a considerable premium for fancy flavoured ice creams such as maple syrup and walnut and mango fruit cocktail. Tastes are simply broadening."

Sainsbury's reported heavy demand for its discounted frozen turkey at 48p a pound, and own label champagne at £5.95 a bottle, but it also claimed a rapid turnover in fresh geese, and a rapid increase in sales of table wines, especially the premium Vintage Selection range. Stiltons were selling "exceptionally well".

Marks & Spencer claimed to have invented the convenience Christmas lunch, with chestnut stuffed turkey breast ready for the oven at £1.89 a pound. It also reported selling large numbers of fresh cream and frozen gateaux and Yule logs without denting the customary demand for Christmas cakes and puddings.

Waitrose reckoned Christmas for its customers would be "more traditional than ever" with large numbers of fresh pheasants, mallard, geese, pigeons and partridge sold "in addition to the usual turkey sales".

It also reported that smoked salmon, big hams, and loose handmade chocolates were popular.

Keymarkets said that its customers were buying "all the traditional lines in the traditional quantities. There is no sign that people are hard up".

As weathermen warned of the remote chance of a white Christmas, betting men started dreaming of a wet Christmas. William Hill, the bookmakers, stand to pay out thousands of pounds if a drop of rain falls on the roof of the London Weather Centre on Christmas Day (Jenny Knight writes).

The Post Office said it expects to deliver about 1,000 million Christmas cards and parcels by Christmas eve, about 30 million more than last year. Part of the increase is attributed to the six million discount pre-Christmas stamp books.

Among those with the longest breaks are some British Steel workers, who will be off duty for 16 days, including an annual leave. Ford Employees, who started their break on Wednesday, and will not go back until January 3.

An AA spokesman urged drivers to check that they have enough petrol and necessary spares because most garages will be closed over the Christmas period.

National Express was providing extra coaches to cope with the Christmas rush but services will be suspended on Christmas Day and Boxing Day.

Clergyman frisked in gun alert



Police suspect: The Rev Duncan Brereton with the window scraper that caused a police alert.

From Our Correspondent, York

Police tackled a suspected terrorist gunman in the shadows of a city street. They then bundled him out of his car, spreadeagled him after receiving a report of a figure crouching with a pistol in his hand.

A back-up squad of 12 officers waited near by during the operation only to discover that the man was a Methodist minister in casual clothes waiting for his wife. The "weapon" which a taxi driver thought the man had been pointing at a hotel was a plastic windscreen scraper.

But yesterday the Rev. Duncan Brereton was laughing about the incident which happened outside the Viking Hotel in North Street, York.

"They put my hand on the side of the car, then frisked me to see if I had a gun", Mr Brereton, of Bootham, York, said.

"I can understand their reaction and the police were most polite and courteous. They had to do what they did in the circumstances."

A police spokesman said yesterday he hoped the incident would not stop people from informing the police if they saw anything suspicious.

Chalice returned

A seventeenth century silver chalice and paten stolen from St Botolph's Church in Aldgate, in May was returned by post this week to the rector, the Rev Malcolm Johnson.

Frozen oysters for 30p

By Craig Seton

Connoisseurs of the oyster are in for a surprise - the exclusive shellfish will soon be on sale in supermarkets.

Delicate bivalves will be coated in garlic butter, cheese sauce or bread crumbs before being blast frozen.

Leading restaurants, where oysters sell for more than £5 for six, face the prospect of oysters and chips being a cheap snack.

For Cuan Sea Fisheries, of Stratford Lough, co Down, Northern Ireland, the largest grower of Pacific Oysters in the British Isles, expects to sell them at 30p each.

The company's managing director, Mr Jasper Parsons, with the blessing of the Shellfish Association, is trying to break the snobbish myth about oysters and to make them available to a much wider public through restaurants that cannot afford time or expense of opening oysters and supermarkets.

Mr Parsons said yesterday: "The logic is simply that we have been overlooked in this country by the traditional way of eating oysters. Elsewhere in the world, particularly the United States and Australia, it is very often offered already cooked."

However, Mr Rodney Emmanuel, chairman of Wheeler's fish restaurants in London, said: "There is nothing worse than freezing oysters. I have tried them in Australia and they are flavourless."

"We do serve cooked oysters but they are fresh, live and opened in the restaurant."

BL restarts discount war with Maestro deal

By Clifford Webb, Motoring Correspondent

BL is trying to boost sales of the Maestro by offering substantial incentive payments to dealers for the first time since the car was launched 10 months ago. Dealers will receive up to £500 for each Maestro sold above the factory's target.

The move signals the renewal in the new year of the discount war, which has been such a feature of the British car market in the past two years.

It will also be seen in the industry as a direct challenge to Ford of Britain's chairman, Mr Sam Toy. He stopped dealer incentives nearly four months ago and called for a truce throughout the industry. Although it was ignored by his competitors he has refrained from reintroducing incentives.

However he has made it clear that he will "do everything necessary" to defend Ford's leadership and its 30 per cent market share.

The Austin Rover campaign will run from January 3 to April 9 and cover, in addition to Maestro, the Mini, Metro, Ambassador and Acclaim models. Factory payments to dealers start when they reach 50 per cent of their sales target for the quarter and increase in graded amounts according to the model.

For instance the Mini starts at £50 and the Maestro at £100, rising to £100 and £250 by 75 per cent of target and £100 and £500 for exceeding 100 per cent of target.

The Maestro MG and Vanden Plas models are excluded from incentives.

The latest Austin Rover campaign is designed to help the company to hold its 18 per cent market share until the Montego arrives in April. The new car will be a direct competitor for Ford's Sierra and Vauxhall's Cavalier, it is expected to win significant fleet sales from both.

Disabled trickster jailed for insurance swindle

A man born without most of his fingers and a couple of toes, who claimed thousands of pounds under insurance companies' travel policies after telling stories of gruesome accidents, was jailed for two years today.

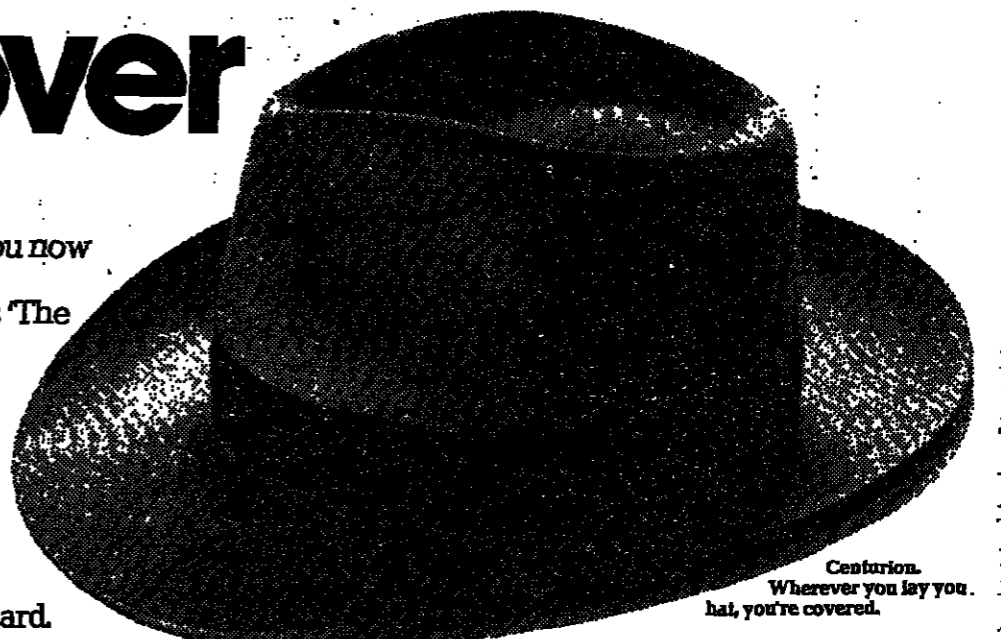
Sun Alliance paid him £56,500 and General Accident £3,200 when he told them he lost his fingers, part of a foot and the sight of an eye in separate accidents, Mr Michael Hyam, for the prosecution, told

American Express Cardmembers travel under cover

Memorise the following communication. If you carry the American Express Card you now qualify for travel insurance of unrivalled value. Centurion Cover* and Assistance, services 'The Times' called "one of the best deals available" in our opinion that's putting it mildly.

Cover: You've bought a scheduled airline ticket on the American Express Card. The flight is delayed.

As a Cardmember you automatically qualify for free Centurion Cover. So if the delay is 4 hours or more you can spend as much as £50 on food or accommodation there and then, with the Card.



Centurion. Wherever you lay you, hat, you're covered.



Year round travel insurance. Put the competition in the shade.

If your luggage is held up at your scheduled destination for longer than 6 hours, you can use the Card to buy up to £50 worth of replacement clothing. Should your luggage be mislaid and still missing after 48 hours, you can spend a further £125. And you can relax in the knowledge that you've up to £60,000 of free travel accident insurance behind you.

Protection. Accidents happen. And medical aid costs. Centurion Assistance costs Cardmembers a mere £35 once a year. Wherever you are, help is available 24 hours a day and is only as far away as the nearest telephone. Help like medical cover worth up to £50,000 - a heartening thought if the only thing to get plastered on your skiing holiday is your left leg. Centurion Assistance also offers unlimited repatriation costs and other substantial benefits.

Drivers. An additional £20 a year covers your car, wherever you travel in Europe. There's a 24-hour emergency service ready to rush to your aid should your fan belt snap on the Autobahn, or should a collision cut short your touring holiday. You're unlimited cover for the location and delivery of spare parts, and vehicle storage; £400 car hire expenses; £100 towing expenses; and £100 per person extra hotel expenses.

Personal year round travel insurance is yours for an extra £10. Should you lose your baggage - or even your

ski equipment - you're covered for up to £1,000; there's also cover worth up to £2,000 should your holiday be cut short or cancelled; personal protection worth up to £500 against your money being lost or stolen; and 3rd party cover worth up to £500,000.

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Tim Jones
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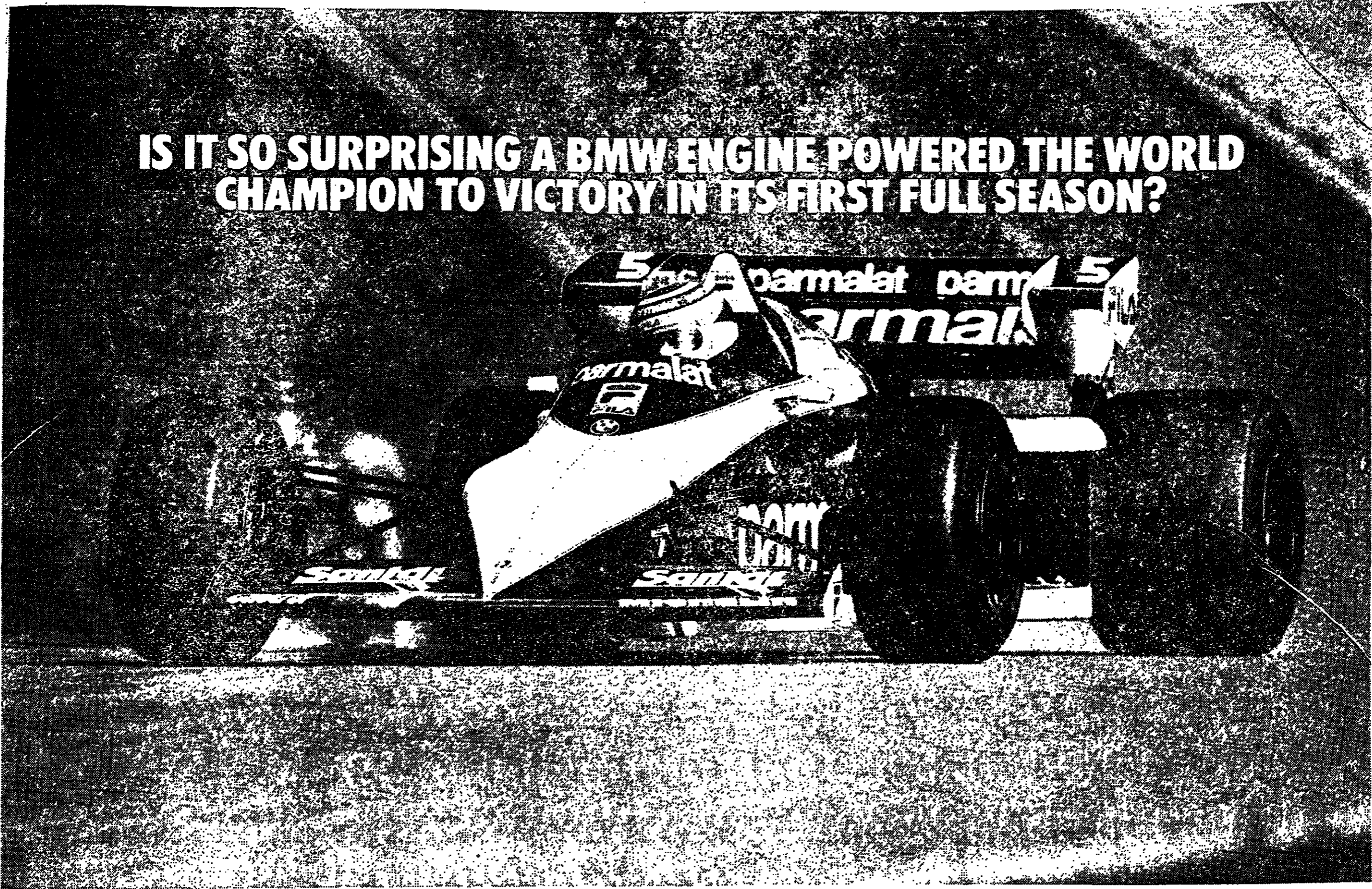
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IS IT SO SURPRISING A BMW ENGINE POWERED THE WORLD CHAMPION TO VICTORY IN ITS FIRST FULL SEASON?



AFTER ALL, WE'VE BEEN ROAD TESTING IT FOR YEARS.



1983 saw Nelson Piquet carry off the Formula One Drivers' World Championship in his Parmalat Brabham BMW.

It also saw the first occasion on which a World Champion's engine started life under the bonnet of a four cylinder road car.

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Since 1970 Datsun have sold more cars than any importer this century.

Why?

LAUREL. There are 2 saloons in the range, a 2 litre version at £6990 and a 2.4 litre version at £7990.



Datsun UK began importing Datsun cars into Britain in 1970. And now we've sold a million cars - 900,000 of them in the last ten years.

Renault have been here since 1905. Fiat since 1924.

And Volkswagen since 1953, and none of them can even start to match this record.

Datsun has been the best selling imported make of car in Britain for the last 10 years, with the Sunny and Cherry consistently being the most popular.

Why have so many people bought a Datsun?

OUTSTANDING QUALITY.

Independent consumer surveys for the last 8 years have shown Datsun to be the most reliable cars on the road.

But even more impressive are the unsolicited testimonials that have flooded in from satisfied Datsun owners.

Many people are so impressed with the uncanny reliability and low running costs of their Datsuns that they put pen to paper to tell us how thrilled they are.

rd top and engines. 368.



SUNNY. A range of 2 and 4 door saloons, with 1.3 and 1.5 litre engines, a 1.5 coupe, and 1.3 and 1.5 estate versions. Price range from £4161 - £5519.



Stories of 100,000 miles without repair are commonplace.

There's even the case of the Datsun Sunny, used as a driving school car, which clocked up 300,493 miles and was still going strong.

If we were to relate all these remarkable letters to you, this paper would have precious little space

for news.

WHAT THE EXPERTS SAY.

The motoring press have been showering praise on Datsun's quality of construction for years.

In 1971 Motor magazine said "in performance and economy the Sunny is equal to anything in its class and in many aspects of comfort and equipment it stands virtually alone," and more recently they said "the Sunny is the most reliable car with the lowest number of days off the road."

"Datsun reliability is enviable, an added bonus for the Micra" said Autocar.

It must be more than mere coincidence that Datsun dependability is consistently described by motoring experts in such glowing terms.

The connection is no mystery to us.

Nissan pay meticulous attention to detail in every aspect of design and production, and this has benefits that go far beyond reliability.

MICRA. Three 1 litre, 3 door versions; the DX at £3750, the GL at £4250, and the Auto 1.0 GL at £4560.



PATROL. A range of 4x4s. A hard top and estate with 2.8 litre engines, and diesel equivalents with 3.3 litre engines. Price range from £8515 - £10,358.



OUTSTANDING FUEL ECONOMY.

In March 1980 Drive said of the Nissan Cherry "Cheapest to run at 5.08p per mile, lowest fuel consumption at 2.73p per mile."

On the issue of economy, owners and motoring writers are in unanimous agreement.

Datsun cars have always been economical to run, but with the launch of the Micra earlier this year we have the most economical car in Europe with an unbeatable 67 mpg at 56 mph.

In the words of Motor "Competitively priced and equipped and the most economical car on sale... best touring consumption ever."

The same magazine summed up the Nissan Sunny in the following words: "Excellent performance and economy in a roomy package - hard to beat."

Even in the normally thirsty luxury class, Nissan cars attract repeated praise for fuel economy.

Of the Datsun Laurel, Autocar have said "On price, mid-range performance, level of equipment and overall fuel consumption the Laurel is hard to beat."

It should not be surprising that outstanding reliability and total economy should result from Nissan's quality.

But you want more from a car, and on creature comforts and level of equipment Nissan cars again attract an enormous and enthusiastic following.

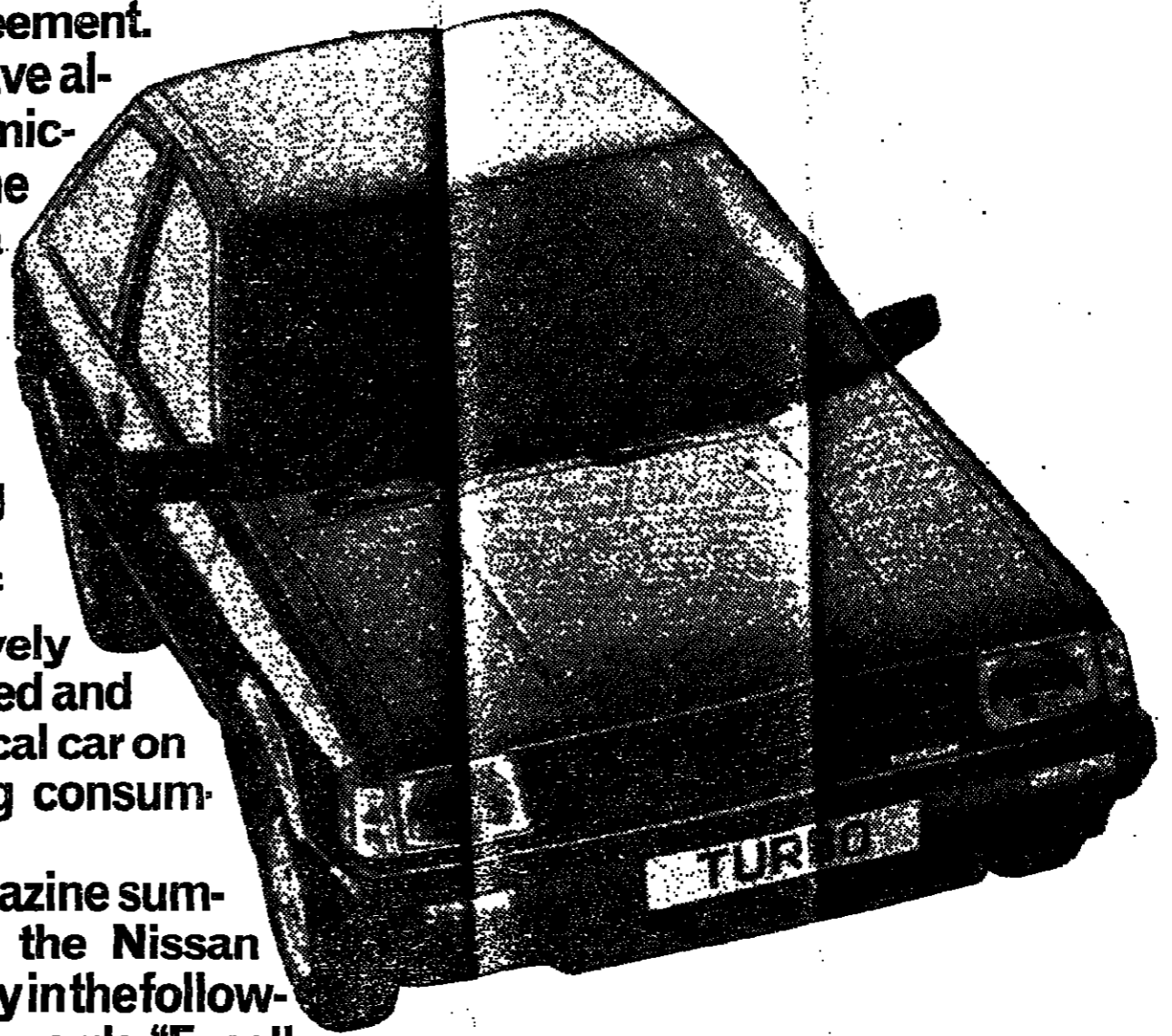
LEVEL OF EQUIPMENT.

It's a well known fact that Datsun cars were the first to provide an extensive list of standard equipment included in the price of the car.

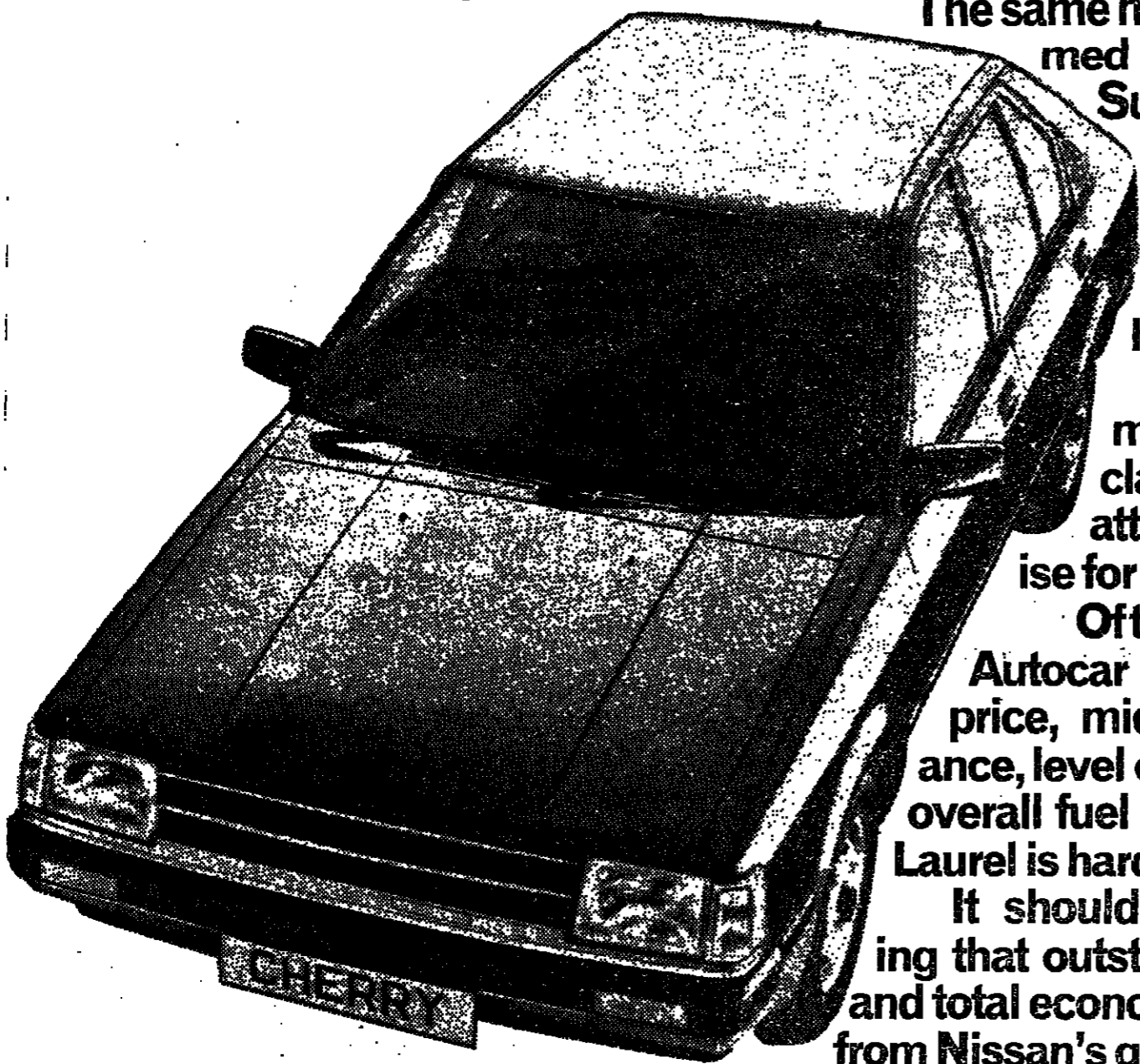
Other car makers are still trying to jump on the bandwagon.

But Datsun have continually improved what was already an exceedingly generous level of

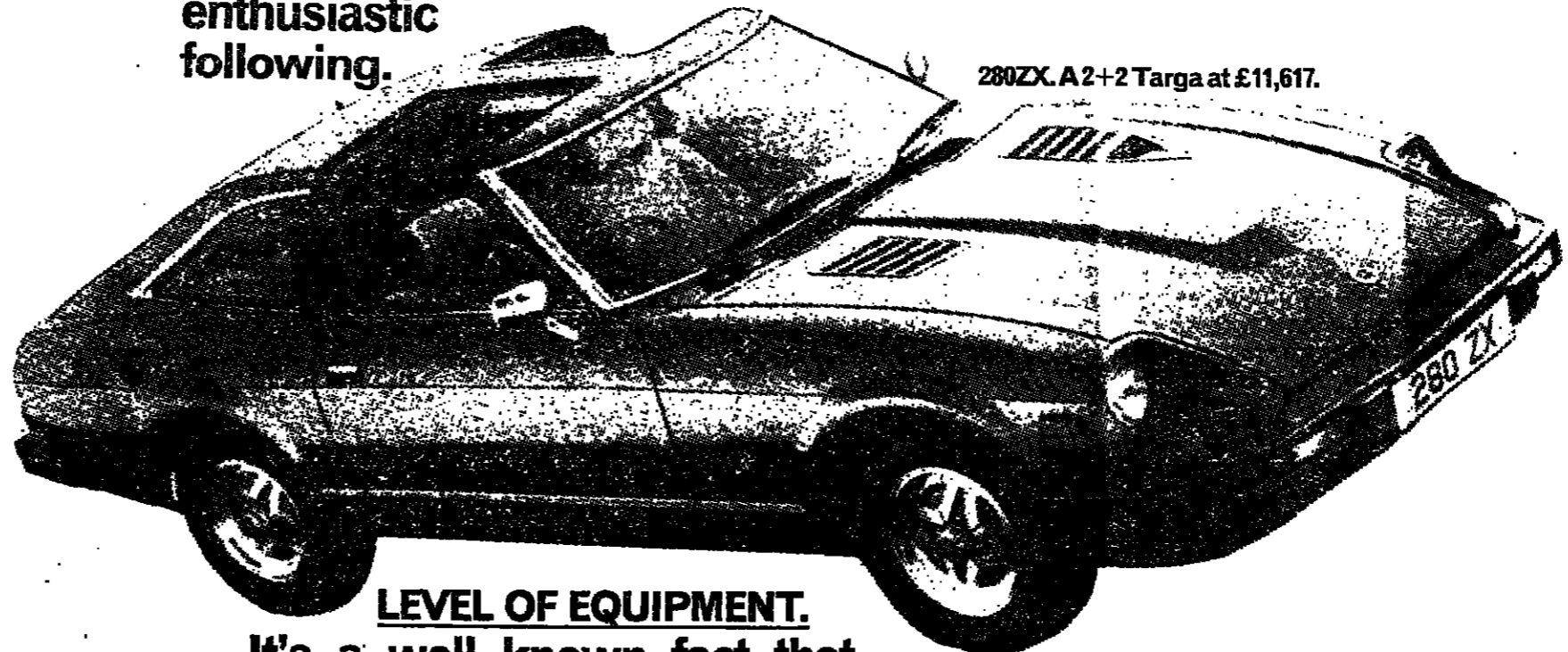
CHERRY TURBO. 1.5 litre engine. 60 mph in 8.0 secs (Motor). Price £6400.



CHERRY. A range of 3 and 5 door hatchbacks with 1.0, 1.2, 1.3 and 1.5 litre engines (including GTI version). Price range from £3851 - £5350.



280ZX. A2+2 Targa at £11,617.



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equipment. Which results in our cars continuing as ever, to provide excellent value for money.

A sentiment echoed

by Motor when speaking of the Datsun Bluebird.

They said "Outstandingly well-equipped and offers excellent value."

When the Financial Times turned its attention to the Nissan Stanza, they were equally enthusiastic: "Any European manufacturers who haven't got round to evaluating the Datsun Stanza should buy one straight away.

They will be doing themselves a favour because they will discover just how good a medium size family car can be."

A DIFFERENT ATTITUDE TO QUALITY.

Perhaps what separates Nissan cars from other marques more than anything else is the attitude of the people who design, build and test them.

Nissan engineers do not find it extraordinary to test a car, flat-out, continuously for 100,000 miles.

To them it is all perfectly normal.

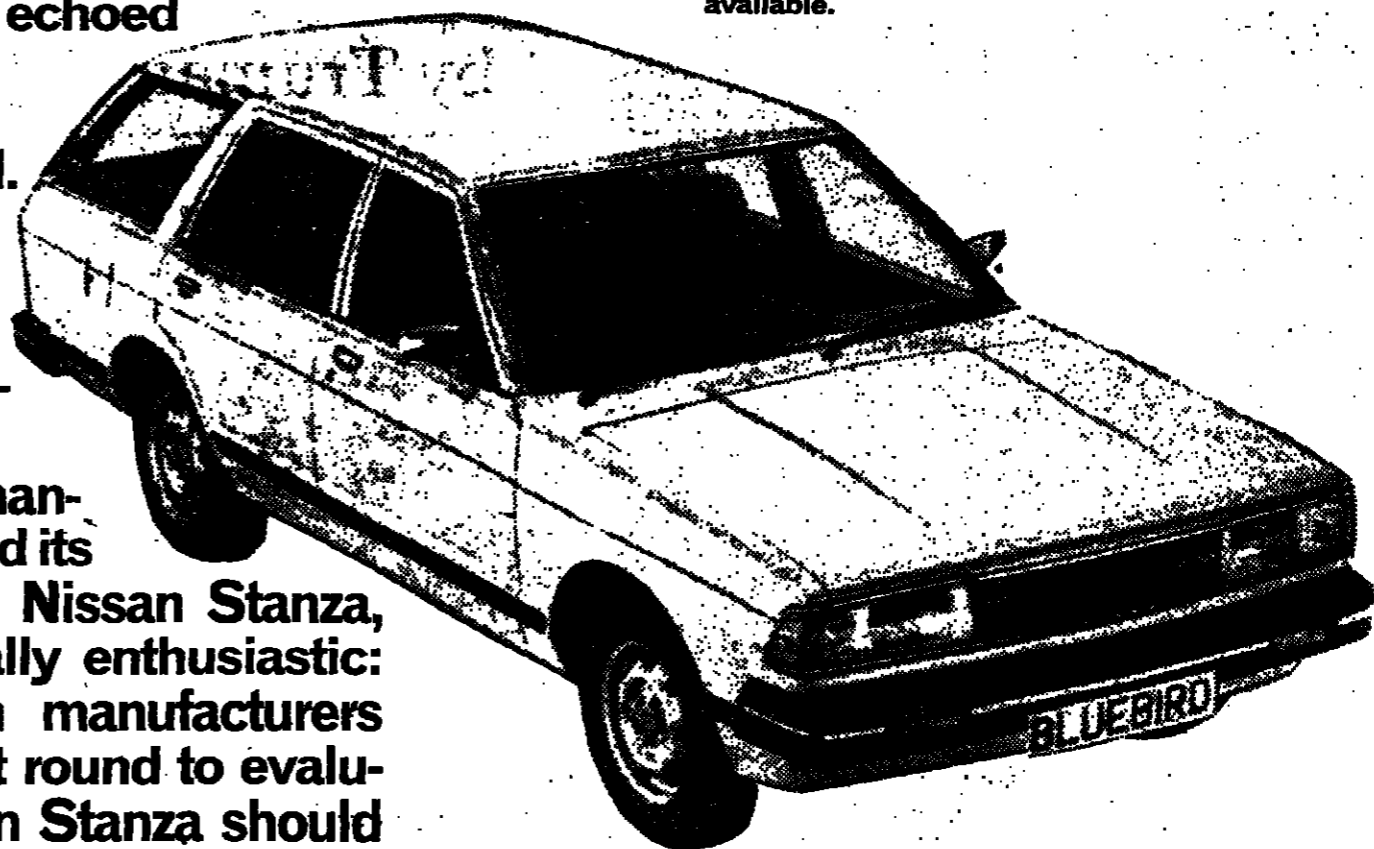
They find nothing remarkable about taking a car into the searing heat of the desert and simulating stop-start traffic jam conditions.

To them, good enough just isn't good enough. It is that attitude of constantly seeking to find new ways of further improving the quality of Nissan cars that ultimately means more reliable, more economical, better-styled value for money cars for you.

The attitude is well expressed by a young line worker at a Nissan factory: "I don't want its owner to ever have a problem and think I failed to do my job."

Perhaps it's this commitment from the workforce that has led to such a strong commitment from Datsun owners.

BLUEBIRD. 1.8 litre saloon at £5991 and a 1.8 litre estate at £6395, automatic available.



PRAIRIE. 1 model with a 1.5 litre engine, at £6060.



STANZA. A range of 3, 4 and 5 door cars, with 1.6 and 1.8 litre engines, price range from £5819 - £6695.



Prices exclude delivery and number plates. Fuel economy figures - mpg (l/100 km). PRAIRIE 1.0GL Urban 47.9 (5.9), at 56 mph 67.3 (4.2), at 75 mph 46.3 (6.1). CHERRY 1.3GL 5 door, Urban 37.2 (7.6), at 56 mph 56.5 (5.0), at 75 mph 39.8 (7.1). SUNNY 1.3DX 4 door, Urban 37.2 (7.6), at 56 mph 57.7 (4.9), at 75 mph 41.5 (6.8). STANZA 1.6GL 3 door, Urban 29.1 (9.7), at 56 mph 51.4 (5.5), at 75 mph 38.2 (7.4). BLUEBIRD 1.8GL Urban 29.4 (9.6), at 56 mph 44.1 (6.4), at 75 mph 33.6 (8.4). LAUREL 2.0GL, Urban 23.5 (12.0), at 56 mph 42.2 (6.7), at 75 mph 31.7 (8.9).

مكتبة الأصل



P.O. Box 7, 200 Gray's Inn Road, London WC1X 8EZ. Telephone: 01-837 1234

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

A CHILD FOR OUR TIMES

It was an unusual birth announcement, not the kind we are familiar with in the personal column of this newspaper...

It is difficult to escape the conclusion that had the angels attached their message to any other event at all, we would long since have forgotten it.

enter into its spirit are to be pitied indeed, for they are confessing their total captivity to worldliness, and denying mankind's inherent spirituality.

NO ONE TAKES THE RAP

Earls Court, London, January 14, 1983: six o'clock in the evening. The scene is still vividly remembered. A yellow Mini is stationary in a rush-hour traffic jam.

pre-emptive strike in self-defence appeared to confer an alarming licence on armed policemen to use their guns, not to mention the wider application of the doctrine beyond the police force.

shot at - he certainly hit - the tyres of the car, also contrary to instructions; and evidence that he failed - though he may have tried - to give an audible warning shout, as required.

Political priority for Ireland

From Lord Hylton Sir, The duration of politically inspired violence in Ireland, which spills over into Britain, makes it clear that there is no purely security or military solution for the underlying problems.

Understanding attitude to charity

From the Director of the National Council for Voluntary Organisations Sir, Your leading article, "Charitable giving and taking" (December 17), reveals a certain lack of understanding of the work of many voluntary organisations and their relationships with local authorities and central government.

Stronger role for BA

From the Chairman of British Airways Sir, In his article of December 14, Kenneth Fleet reflected upon two important issues concerning British Airways - the "dominance of international routes and the shape of the balance sheet".

Test of closed shop

From Mr John Coleman Sir, I have an inbuilt dislike of the closed shop anywhere and law-changing rather than law-breaking, seems to me to be the essentially British way of doing things.

Buildings of beauty

From Mr J. H. Morley Sir, I was intrigued to read (feature, December 17) that Sir John Summerson "despised" the Granada Cinema at Tooting.

Eleanor statuary

From Mrs Beryl Bandy Sir, Dr Kahn suggests (December 12) that the statues on the Queen Eleanor crosses should be preserved in a museum and replicas placed on the crosses.

Control of Namibia

From Mr H. Maclear Bate Sir, May I refer to your important article, "The Namibian pressure-point" (December 10). I believe you have correctly stated the position when you say, "... the South Africans do not wish for a settlement".

Aims of Sandinismo

From the Nicaraguan Ambassador Sir, I write in reply to Sir Alfred Sherman's letter of December 12. The support for Contadora is a rejection that the crisis in Central America is an East-West conflict.

Peace in our time

From Mr M. Charlish Sir, Of the conflicts Mr Graham Greene cites (December 17) the American war in Vietnam was a continuation of the French war in Vietnam, in Malaya, Kenya, Angola, Nigeria, Ethiopia were civil wars/insurrections where the nuclear deterrent was not in possession by either faction, and indeed their mention helps to fortify Mr Heseltine's observation.

Orthopaedic needs

From Dr D. J. Stoker and others Sir, The recent decision of the Bloomsbury Health Authority not to renew the lease of the Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital building in Great Portland Street symbolizes the culmination of years of neglect by the DHSS, which has managed to escape its obligation to provide the services needed by a national orthopaedic centre.

Too lenient?

From Mr Inigo Bing Sir, In the wake of criticism about sentencing the Prime Minister has promised legislation to permit sentences alleged to be too lenient to be referred to the Court of Appeal. Referred by whom?

Upstairs, downstairs

From Mr David Griffiths Sir, Who says there's no integration between London's bus and Underground services? On leaving a crowded Victoria Line tube at King's Cross this morning I heard the customary shout from the guard: "Move right down inside the cars." He then added with an afterthought: "There's plenty of room on top."

Accountability in the here and now

From the Bishop of Lincoln Sir, Ronald Butt (feature, December 22) quotes Bede's tale of the lighted hall and out again into the night. Man's life, says the tale, is like that brief moment. The tale writes Butt, "is a reminder that Christianity has always been principally about first and last things... To-day, however, it is the things between, here and now, that are dominant in the teaching of Christian priests and ministers."

Drug smuggling

From Lord Harris of Greenwich Sir, The Home Secretary is right to warn the country of an alarming upsurge in the abuse of dangerous drugs (report, December 15). As Chairman of the Parole Board I became increasingly disturbed by evidence that sophisticated criminals had become involved with the importation of substantial quantities of heroin and cocaine.

Glue sniffers

From Mrs Lena Joy Sir, As a relatively new arrival in this country I ask what we, the ordinary people in the street, actually can/should do when coming across a couple of 10-11-year-old glue sniffers?

Peace in our time

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COURT AND SOCIAL

SOCIAL NEWS

The Queen will hold investitures at Buckingham Palace on February 14, 21 and 28, March 6, 13 and 20, July 31 and August 2.

Princess Alexandra will be present at the Royal Air Force anniversary concert at the Festival Hall on March 30.

The Duke of Kent will visit Davy McKee Ltd, the Combined Cadet Force and attend the Cutlers' Feast in Sheffield on March 21.

Princess Alexandra will be present at a reception at Guildhall to mark the 21st anniversary of the Furniture Makers' Company on March 29.

Princess Alexandra will be present at the celebration of a Christmas Mass by Father Antoine Leman tomorrow at 11 am in St Edward's Convent Chapel.

Mr Graham Matthews wishes his friends at home and abroad a very merry Christmas and happy New Year.

Mr T. R. Lowry and Miss R. M. Bennett The engagement is announced between Timothy Robert, son of Mr and Mrs Donald Lowry, of Lyme Regis, Dorset, and Rosaline, daughter of Mr Patrick Bennett, QC, and Mrs Bennett, of Kensington, London.

The Rev T. O. Mendel and Miss F. Wise The engagement is announced between Tom, son of Mr T. O. Mendel and the late Mrs Mendel, of Andover, Hampshire, and Fiona, daughter of Mr and Mrs D. I. Wise, of Barton, Cambridgeshire.

Mr G. Murray and Miss C. Spooner The engagement is announced between Gregor, son of the late Mr John Murray and Mrs J. C. N. Murray, and Catherine, daughter of Mr and Mrs Brian Spooner, of Shillington, Dorset.

Mr J. H. E. Pearson and Miss J. M. Hamber The engagement is announced between James, youngest son of Mr and Mrs J. L. Pearson, of Upton-upon-Severn, Worcestershire, and Joanna, elder daughter of Dr and Mrs R. C. Hamber, of Salisbury, Wiltshire.

Mr R. J. Simpson, RN, and Miss E. M. Thomas The engagement is announced between Richard Simpson, of Haywards Heath, Sussex, and Elizabeth Thomas, of Trefriw, Gwynedd.

Mr P. A. Sherridge and Miss S. A. Miles The engagement is announced between Piers, younger son of Dr J. Sherridge, of Regent's Park, London, and Mrs M. Bowman-Vaughan, of Barham, Suffolk, and daughter of Mrs J. V. Miles, of Aldringham, Suffolk.

Mr M. Williams and Miss K. A. Rosamond The engagement is announced between Alaric, eldest son of Mr and Mrs S. V. Wyatt, of Charlbury, Oxfordshire, and Angela, only daughter of Mr and Mrs V. L. Parker, of the British Embassy, Stockholm.

Mr R. D. Swain and Miss S. Sharples The marriage has taken place between Mr Robert Douglas Swain and the Baroness Sharples, now at Nunswell, Higher Coombe, Shaftesbury, Dorset, SP7 9LR.

Mr A. J. Wyatt and Miss A. F. Parker The engagement is announced between Alaric, eldest son of Mr and Mrs S. V. Wyatt, of Charlbury, Oxfordshire, and Angela, only daughter of Mr and Mrs V. L. Parker, of the British Embassy, Stockholm.

Mr M. L. Licence and Miss S. E. Wray The engagement is announced between Ian, son of Lieutenant Colonel B. E. Licence, RE, and Mrs Licence, of Shipston-upon-Stour, West Midlands, and Susan, daughter of Captain A. C. Wray, RN, and Mrs Wray, of Tanglewood, Burley, Hampshire.

Mr Thomas Arliss Owen is to succeed Mr Anwarin Thomas as director of the Welsh Arts Council. He will take up his appointment in April 1984 when Mr Thomas retires.

Mr Keith Stewart, chairman of Associated British Port Holding to join the board of the Royal Ordnance Factories as a non-executive director.

Mr Justice Stidmer to be Chairman of the Judicial Studies Board in succession to Mr Justice Webster, from January 1984. Mr Justice Farquharson to be a member of the board from the same date.

Third century reflections on the birth of Christ

The short and colourful stories gathered around the record of Christ's birth in the stable at Bethlehem bear about them the character of impressionist painting: they offer witness to the deep impact which Christ made on his followers and to the mysterious traits in his personality which seemed to elude any down-to-earth interpretation.

Both were well aware of the difficulties involved in making an infinite God responsible for creation in time and for interventions in history, and both regarded as providentially helpful the idea that the Word, or thought or wisdom, proceeds from the unknowable Father and acts as his personal agent in the work of ordering the world and illuminating the heart of man.

Such is the theme drawn out in the fuller commentary offered by those Christian thinkers whose fortune it was to breathe the atmosphere of the University of Alexandria, famed for its eager search after truth and its wide-ranging sympathies.

Of these third-century scholars two were preeminent: Clement, polished and at home in any company, and Origen, prodigiously learned and zealous to the point of fanaticism.

Origen argues in precisely the same manner as Clement that revelation consists of a gradual progress controlled by the divine Word who sums up all hints and imperfect discoveries in an incarnation, a disclosure of an radical and decisive nature that, after it, things can never be quite the same again.

The whole matter, as Origen explains it, may be compared with the steps leading up to the holy of holies in the Temple: the ascent is a gradual one until finally God is known in himself.

Origen offers a number of sermons on the Christmas theme. One of them starts from St John's observation that "God is light and in Him is no darkness at all".

Origen develops this thought in characteristic fashion: the radiance of this light is the Son who proceeds from the Father without separation (as does

radiance from any light) and illumines the whole creation. By the help of this radiance men understand and experience what the Light is.

A simpler illustration is suggested by St Paul's claim that Christ is the representation of the being of "God". Origen says: "Let us imagine a statue of such a size as to fill the entire world and so vast that no one could contemplate it."

Origen is here crystallizing the third-century argument that, after due preparation in the works of nature and in the heart of man, God is obliged to cut himself down to recognizable size and speak to his people in language which the simplest of them can hardly fail to grasp.

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OBITUARY DR RONALD POPPERWELL Scandinavian studies in Britain

Dr Ronald Popperwell, who died in Cambridge on December 22, was Head of the Department of Scandinavian Studies at Cambridge, and an indefatigable supporter of the cause of Scandinavian studies in the United Kingdom.

Mr Charles Lloyd Pack, the character actor, died on December 22, aged 81. His name, whilst seldom at the top of the bill, was one of the best respected in his profession; and his face and persona were as readily identifiable to the public as those of many actors whose names are more immediately

Prof Walther Zimmerli, who died at Oberdiesbach in Switzerland on December 4 at the age of 76, was one of the most distinguished Old Testament scholars of the post-war period, as well as a prolific writer, an influential teacher, and a respected university administrator.

Colonel Rupert Alexander Alec-Smith, who died on December 23 at the age of 70, was Lord Lieutenant of Humberside from 1980 to 1983, and had been active for many years in Kingston upon Hull. He was Lord Mayor of Hull in 1971 and became chairman of the Hull Bench in 1965.

Harry Miller, a South African double bassist who was a familiar figure in the British modern jazz scene of the 1970s, died in Holland on December 16, after a road accident. He was 42.

Miller played in jazz and rock groups in Johannesburg before emigrating to England in the late 1960s. During the succeeding years, he performed with

practically all the leading young British jazz musicians. He appeared with Mike Westbrook, Stan Tracey, Keith Tippett, John Surman, Alan Skidmore, Mike Osborne and his fellow South African, Chris McGregor.

In the late 1970s he emigrated to Holland, where he collaborated with leading Dutch modern jazz musicians.



Export threat to painting

The future of an early fourteenth century Siense painting of the Crucifixion (pictured above) will depend on seven months of fund-raising activities by groups determined to keep the piece in Britain (David Hewson writes).

There was little optimism in arts circles last night that there would be sufficient public support to raise the necessary £1,798,000 while an export licence is withheld.

The painting was at one time attributed to Duccio, though latterly there has been doubt cast on its authorship. It is described officially as an early fourteenth century painting of the Siense school which shows a treatment of St Longinus curing his blindness by applying Christ's blood to his eyes.

There is speculation in the art world that the painting may be bought for an American collection. The painting has been in Britain since at least 1854 when it was bought by the Rev Walter Davenport Bromley. It was purchased in 1863 by Lord Lindsay, later the Earl of Crawford and Balcarres, and remained in his family until it was sold in 1976.

Christmas services: WESTMINSTER ABBEY, 10.30. Morning Prayer, 11.15. Evensong, 12.30. St Paul's Cathedral, 10.30. Morning Prayer, 11.15. Evensong, 12.30. St Martin-in-the-Fields, 10.30. Morning Prayer, 11.15. Evensong, 12.30. St Andrew's, 10.30. Morning Prayer, 11.15. Evensong, 12.30.

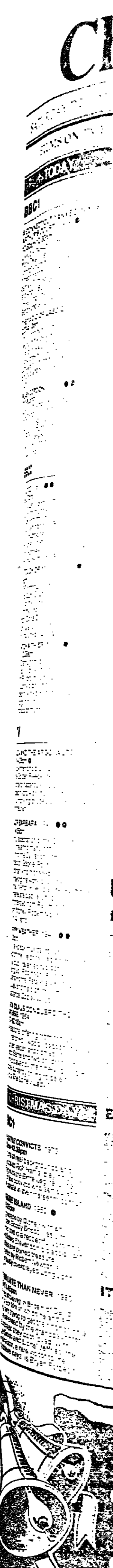
Science report Rich harvest from an isolated plateau

Many of the scientists employed by Sandoz, the international pharmaceuticals corporation based in Switzerland, are under standing instructions to take soil samples whenever they travel abroad on the principle that "with a bit of luck, a handful of soil or sludge that the layman would dismiss as merely so much dirt research workers, turn into a priceless treasure."

The microbiologists struck gold most spectacularly with a sample from the Hardanger Vidla, a high treeless plateau in southern Norway from which was isolated a fungus that has proved invaluable in organ transplants and other clinical conditions requiring an immunosuppressive agent.

ALL HALLOWS BY THE TOWER: Family Service with Communion and Benediction, 11.30. The church will remain open all day.

St Paul's Cathedral, 10.30. Morning Prayer, 11.15. Evensong, 12.30. St Martin-in-the-Fields, 10.30. Morning Prayer, 11.15. Evensong, 12.30. St Andrew's, 10.30. Morning Prayer, 11.15. Evensong, 12.30.



Boxing Day

Edited by Peter De...

BBC 1

- 9.00 The New Adventures of Flash Gordon. Today the indestructible hero faces the Revolt of the Power Men.
9.20 The Natural World: Snowy, Chilly, Muddy and the Oxford zoologist John Palling with a puppy and two kittens. Mr Palling discovers that our domestic pets really are wild animals, thinly disguised (r).

- 5.25 Circus World Championships. Some 50 artists compete in four categories - Super Troupe, Foot Juggling, Hand Balancing and the Flying Trapeze.
6.25 The Paul Daniels Magic Christmas Show. Magic and comedy from the host; illusions from The Pandragons; acrobatics from the Five Star Endrasz Family; and Professor Al Carthy with his mechanical man.
7.15 The Kenny Everett Television Show. A special edition of the eccentric Everett show in which even the dubious gags are done in the best possible taste.



Shipshape: All aboard for an hour with Morecombe and Wise and party time with the crew from Minder (Both ITV)

BBC 2

- 12.45 Racing from Wincanton. Julian Wilson introduces coverage of the Daily Mirror Conditional Jockeys Championship Handicap Chase (1.00); the Coral Golden Hurdle (1.35); and the Better Bet Coral Steeplechase (2.05). The commentators are Peter O'Sullivan and Richard Pitman. Also included is Julian Wilson's review of the last flat racing season and his choice of Racehorse of the Year.
2.20 Joseph and Child. Did Joseph really play the part of mid-wife at Christ's birth? Arthur Dooley's sculpture shows Joseph holding the child he has helped deliver (r).

BBC 2

- 5.00 Shakespeare in Perspective. Russell Davies with a preview of tomorrow night's production of Shakespeare's comedy Two Gentlemen of Verona, on BBC2.
5.25 Film: Mame (1974). Musical story of a nephew's life with an outrageous aunt. Starring Lucille Ball and Robert Preston.
7.15 A Life in the Theatre: Gwen Frangou-Davies. The nonagenarian actress talks about her career, which covered 70 years, and of her eventual life.
8.05 News summary with subtitles.
8.10 Romeo and Juliet. Prokofiev's ballet performed by the Ballet of La Scala, Milan, with Carla Fracci and Rudolf Nureyev dancing the title roles and Dame Margot Fonteyn as Lady Capulet. The choreography is by Rudolf Nureyev. Introduced by John Drummond.
10.25 Film: The Ipcress File (1965). Len Deighton's spy thriller starring Michael Caine, Nigel Green and Guy Doleman. Ends at 12.15.

CHANNEL 4

- 10.35 Animated Fables. Antoine Misse, director of the Cambridge Animation Festival, introduces three films. From Czechoslovakia, The King and the Gobbin; from the United States, How the Zebra Came to Be; and the Canadian-made Cinderella Penguin.
11.05 Film: A Swain in May (1983) A young chorister restores an ancient church tradition. Starring Oliver Hicks.
12.30 Film: The Adventures of Tom Sawyer (1938) John Weaver's version of the classic Mark Twain story. With Tommy Kelly and Jackie Moran.
2.00 A Rough Stage. A documentary, narrated by Maureen Lipman, that examines the development of entertainment for the masses. With personal recollections and examples of grass roots entertainment past and present the programme illustrates, among other things, what it was like to be a touring child dancer at the turn of the century and to sit in the rowdiest section of a 1912 music hall audience.

TV-am

- 7.30 The Adventures of Mole. A special story for children.
8.00 TV-am's Boxing Day Show includes the 50 minute interview, first shown on Australian television, with Michael Parkinson talking to Princess Anne.
9.00 Roland's Winter Wonderland. Roland and Kevin are on the slopes in the Swiss Alps awaiting their first ski-ing lesson. Will they understand their polite and painstaking instructor?
9.45 The Talking Parcel. An animated version of Gerald Durrell's story about a girl who finds a talking parcel on a bench. Among the voices are those of Freddie Jones, Mollie Sugden, Roy Kinnear and Windsor Davies.
10.25 Film: The Bugs Bunny/Road Runner Movie (1978). Five shorts featuring the indestructible rabbit and one with the equally resilient desert bird.
12.00 Take Over. Three teams, led by Jenny Lee-Wright, Richard O'Sullivan and Isis St Clair, test their skills at various hazardous exploits with the help of skaters. Brough Scott is the man who puts them in the driving seat.
1.00 News.
1.05 Racing from Kempton. Brough Scott introduces the Food Brokers' Amateur Hurdle (1.10); the Ladbrokes Christmas Hurdle (1.40); and the King George VI Chase (2.15). The commentators are John Oaksey and Graham Good.
2.30 Film: The Scarlet Pimpernel (1982) starring Anthony Andrews and Jane Seymour. Colourful and well-acted version of Baroness Orczy's story of the seemingly effeminate Englishman who is on a visit to Paris at the time when French aristocrats' heads were the victims of the guillotine almost daily. His outwardly foppish exterior hides his real purpose - to save as many of the beleaguered aristocrats as possible. A strong supporting cast includes Ian McKellen as the wicked Cassin Chauvelin, the scourge of the aristocracy. Directed by Clive Donner.
5.15 News and sport.
5.30 Give Us a Clue. Celebrity mime games between two teams. Una Stubbs, Jane Asher, Jilly Cooper and Tracey Ullman against Lionel Blair, Tim Brooke-Taylor, Bob Geldorf and Russell Grant.
6.00 Coronation Street. Rita Fairclough visits the lady who might be able to clear up the mystery surrounding husband Len's death.
6.30 Film: The Spy Who Loved Me (1977). James Bond battles with a man who wants to rule an underwater kingdom. Starring Roger Moore.
8.45 Eric and Ernie's Christmas Show. A Morecombe and Wise spectacular with an extensive guest list that includes Nigel Hawthorne, Fidelity Kendall, Nanette Newman and Peter Skellern.
9.45 Minder Christmas Bonus. Excerpts from the best scenes of previous series of the popular comedy. With Dennis Waterman, George Cole and Glyn Edwards - mine host at the Winchester Club. The programme is set in the club where Terry is trying to make the Christmas lights, supplied by Arthur, work. Meanwhile, Arthur is receiving some stick from 'er indoors who is stranded at Heathrow, trying to leave the country on a holiday with a ticket supplied by Arthur.
10.45 News.
10.50 Des O'Connor Tonight. Music, song and laughter with Jimmy Tarbuck, Marti Caine and Charlie Gates.
12.00 Film: The Fortune (1974) starring Jack Nicholson and Warren Beatty as a pair of inept con-men.
1.35 Night Thoughts from Max Sinclair, assistant director, Hildenborough Hall, Kent.

ITV/LONDON

- 9.25 The Sooty Show. With Matthew Corbett and his puppets, Sooty, Sweep and Soo, in their own version of Red Riding Hood (r).
9.45 The Talking Parcel. An animated version of Gerald Durrell's story about a girl who finds a talking parcel on a bench. Among the voices are those of Freddie Jones, Mollie Sugden, Roy Kinnear and Windsor Davies.
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5.30 Give Us a Clue. Celebrity mime games between two teams. Una Stubbs, Jane Asher, Jilly Cooper and Tracey Ullman against Lionel Blair, Tim Brooke-Taylor, Bob Geldorf and Russell Grant.
6.00 Coronation Street. Rita Fairclough visits the lady who might be able to clear up the mystery surrounding husband Len's death.
6.30 Film: The Spy Who Loved Me (1977). James Bond battles with a man who wants to rule an underwater kingdom. Starring Roger Moore.
8.45 Eric and Ernie's Christmas Show. A Morecombe and Wise spectacular with an extensive guest list that includes Nigel Hawthorne, Fidelity Kendall, Nanette Newman and Peter Skellern.
9.45 Minder Christmas Bonus. Excerpts from the best scenes of previous series of the popular comedy. With Dennis Waterman, George Cole and Glyn Edwards - mine host at the Winchester Club. The programme is set in the club where Terry is trying to make the Christmas lights, supplied by Arthur, work. Meanwhile, Arthur is receiving some stick from 'er indoors who is stranded at Heathrow, trying to leave the country on a holiday with a ticket supplied by Arthur.
10.45 News.
10.50 Des O'Connor Tonight. Music, song and laughter with Jimmy Tarbuck, Marti Caine and Charlie Gates.
12.00 Film: The Fortune (1974) starring Jack Nicholson and Warren Beatty as a pair of inept con-men.
1.35 Night Thoughts from Max Sinclair, assistant director, Hildenborough Hall, Kent.



Ducking: Orville and Keith Harris are hosts at a party (4.35pm)

- BBC 1 Wales: 11.00am-12.00 Rugby Union: highlights of Saturday's game between Bridgend and Cardiff. 12.15am-12.20 News and weather. Northern Ireland: 12.15am-12.20 News and weather.
SAC Starts 12.35 pm Noddy. 12.50 Wae Bit Cheeky. 1.45 Film: Monsieur Hulot's Holiday (Jacques Tati). 3.15 Fragile Earth. 4.10 Dwylo Ffry. 4.40 Film: King of Comedy (Robert De Niro). 6.30 Ser. 7.00 Newyddion Gŵyl. 7.15 Hapwydd. 8.00 Gwch. 10.00 Rhyb: Cwyrthol y Pontypridd. 10.30 Tada. 11.10 It's Got to be Funny Hasn't It. 12.10 am Closedown.
ULSTER As London except: 9.25am-9.30 Day Ahead. 12.00 midnight Tales of the Unexpected: Death in the Morning (Carol Drinkwater). 12.30am News at Bedtime. Closedown.

- REGIONAL TELEVISION VARIATIONS
ANGLIA As London except: 12.00 midnight Tales of the Unexpected: Death in the Morning (Carol Drinkwater). 12.30 am On the Feast of Stephen followed by Closedown.
YORKSHIRE 12.00 midnight Tales of the Unexpected: Death in the Morning. 12.30am Closedown.
CENTRAL As London except: 12.00 midnight Tales of the Unexpected: Death in the Morning. 12.30am Closedown.
GRANADA 12.00 midnight Tales of the Unexpected: Death in the Morning. 12.30am Closedown.

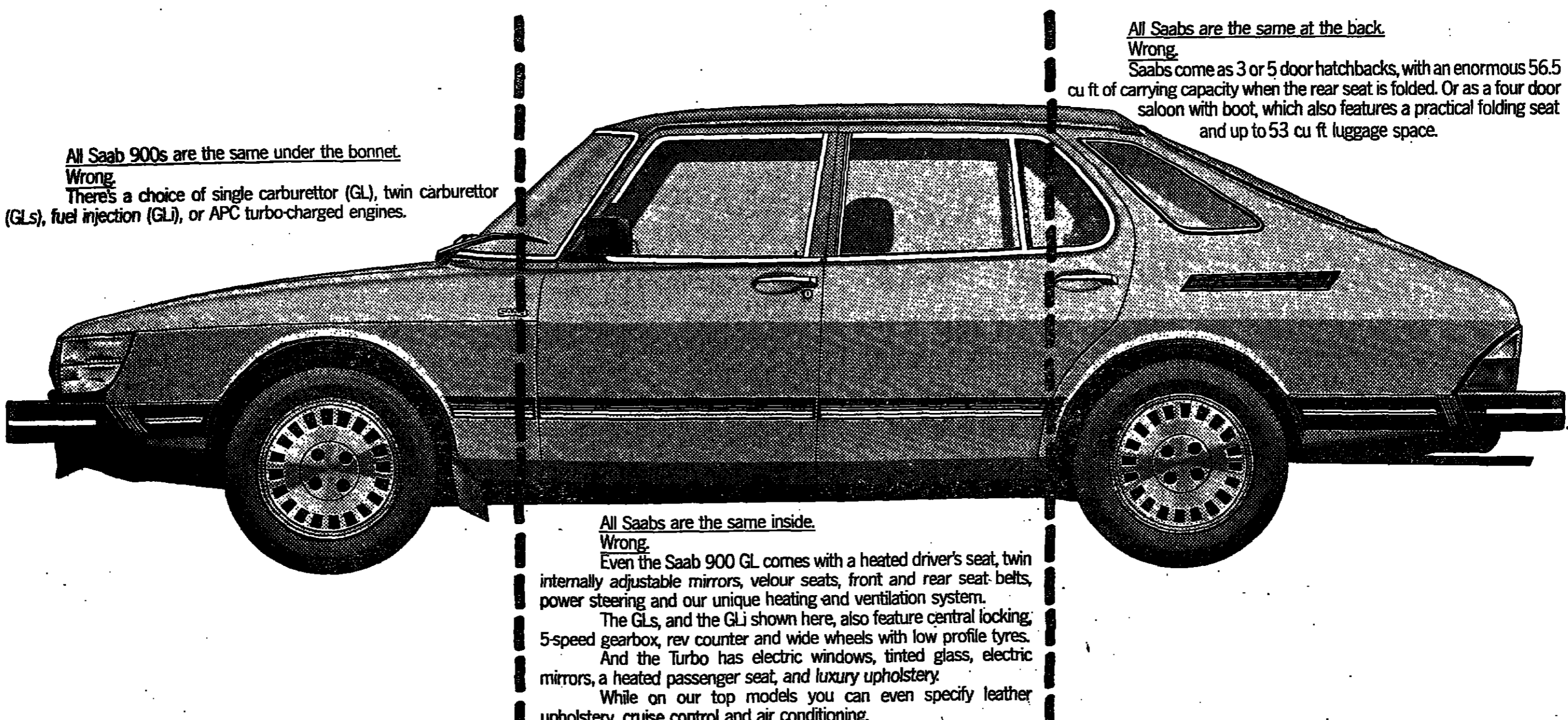
- TYNE TEES As London except: 12.00 midnight Tales of the Unexpected: Death in the Morning (Carol Drinkwater). 12.30 am Christian Christmas. 12.35 Closedown.
TSW As London except: 12.00 midnight Tales of the Unexpected: Death in the Morning. 12.30 am Postscript. 12.35 Closedown.
CHANNEL As London except: 12.00 midnight Tales of the Unexpected: Death in the Morning. 12.30am Weather and Closedown.
SCOTTISH As London except: 12.00 midnight Tales of the Unexpected: Death in the Morning. 12.30am Late Call. 12.35 Closedown.

- HTV As London except: 12.00 midnight Tales of the Unexpected: Death in the Morning (Carol Drinkwater). 12.30am A Carol for Christmas: Bristol Cathedral Choir. 12.35 Weather and Closedown. HTV WALES: No variation.
TVS As London except: 12.00 midnight Tales of the Unexpected: Death in the Morning (Carol Drinkwater). 12.30am Company, followed by Closedown.
BORDER As London except: 12.00 midnight Tales of the Unexpected: Death in the Morning (Carol Drinkwater). 12.30am Closedown.
GRAMPIAN As London except: 12.00 midnight Tales of the Unexpected: Death in the Morning. 12.30am Reflectors. 12.35 Closedown.



Spooking: Cherie Lunghi (left) and Carol Drinkwater in Death in the Morning, a tale of the unexpected (Anglia)

AN INVESTIGATION INTO THE DECEPTIVE APPEARANCE OF A SAAB



All Saab 900s are the same under the bonnet. Wrong. There's a choice of single carburettor (GL), twin carburettor (GLs), fuel injection (GLI), or APC turbo-charged engines.

All Saabs are the same inside. Wrong. Even the Saab 900 GL comes with a heated driver's seat, twin internally adjustable mirrors, velour seats, front and rear seat belts, power steering and our unique heating and ventilation system. The GLs, and the GLI shown here, also feature central locking; 5-speed gearbox, rev counter and wide wheels with low profile tyres. And the Turbo has electric windows, tinted glass, electric mirrors, a heated passenger seat, and luxury upholstery. While on our top models you can even specify leather upholstery, cruise control and air conditioning.

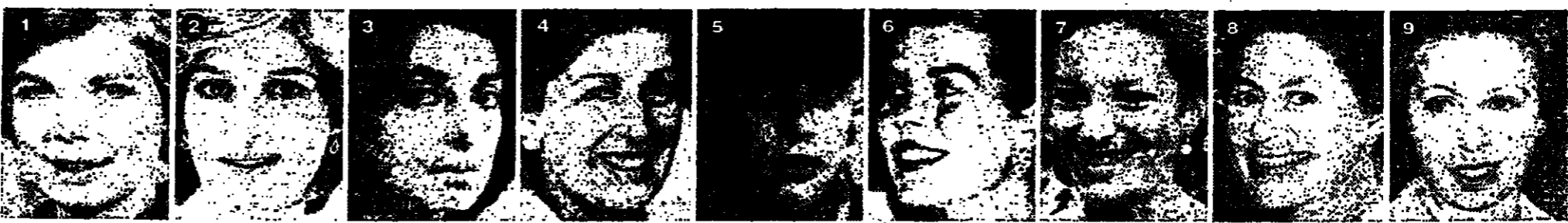
All Saabs are the same at the back. Wrong. Saabs come as 3 or 5 door hatchbacks, with an enormous 56.5 cu ft of carrying capacity when the rear seat is folded. Or as a four door saloon with boot, which also features a practical folding seat and up to 53 cu ft luggage space.

By now you will have discovered that despite appearances, Saabs can be as individual as you wish. On the other hand, because we never compromise on necessities for sake of appearances, you'll find every Saab has headlamp wash-wipes, daytime running lights, self repairing bumpers, all round asbestos-free disc brakes, one of the strongest passenger safety cages in the automotive world, and as a test drive will prove, front wheel drive and 60% weight over the driven wheels makes a Saab handle like a sports car. SAAB 900 FROM £7,320.

The Saab 900GL costs £7320. Model illustrated is Saab 900 GL 5 door at £9090. Prices correct at time of going to press and include car tax and VAT. Road fund licence, delivery charges and number plates are extra. Saab (GB Britain) Ltd, Saab House, Fieldhouse Lane, Marlow, Bucks. SL7 2JY. Telephone: (0628 84) 6977. After-sales (0604) 43643.

Quiz of the year 1983

Quiz of the year 1983



Nine princesses went walkabout this year. Can you match the faces to the royal legs below?

From the polls to Pole Pole, it has been a year to remember. But Robin Young wonders how much you've forgotten...

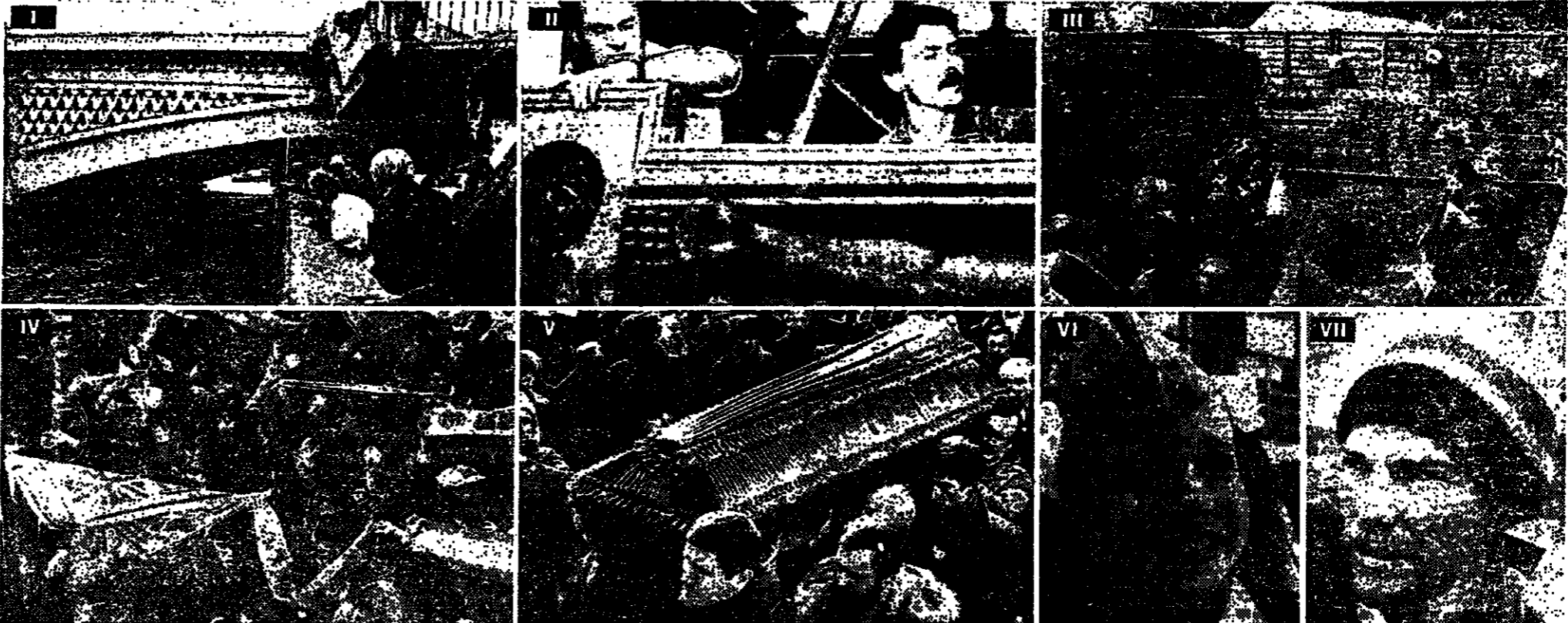
WEATHER OR NOT

- (1) Which winter was the coldest in living memory? a: 1980-1981 b: 1981-1982 c: 1982-1983? (2) Which was the wettest June since 1879? a: 1981 b: 1982 c: 1983? (3) Which was the wettest April since 1940? a: 1981 b: 1982 c: 1983? (4) July 1983 was the hottest since: a: 1982 b: 1976 c: 1975 d: 1659? (5) On how many days in July 1983 were temperatures in England and Wales over 80°F (27°C)? a: 26 b: 16 c: 10 d: 6? (6) For nine weeks in 1983 Britain had 2 1/2 times the normal amount of rain. Did this wet period start in mid: a: March b: April c: May? (7) Traffic on the M40 in Buckinghamshire was disrupted on May 21, 1983. Was it by: a: molten tarmac at a temperature of 76°F b: three-inch hailstones c: 1/2 of an inch of rain d: 3 inches of snow? (8) One day in 1983 was the coldest ever recorded on Earth. Was it: a: January 10 b: April 1 c: July 21 d: December 14? (9) Which of these is not thought to have influenced the weather in 1983: a: El Nino b: El Chichon c: La Camorra d: Le Mistral? (10) What defended London against the weather for the first time on February 2?

- (6) What world record was claimed for Zeya, a Siberian tigress? (7) In what guise did David Agulnik astonish Princess Michael of Kent? (8) What did Pole Pole mean? (9) What have the stone curlew and the purple emperor to do with defence policy? (10) What animal was reproved by a London magistrate? (11) What 90 per cent ruination was effected by Andricus quercus calicis? (12) What was variously said to be a puma, a mongrel, and a lurcher?

WHO SAID ABOUT WHAT?

- (1) "I left home last week in very unbecoming circumstances." (2) "The worst national disaster for 100 years." (3) "No one gives a fig for the Ten Commandments any more but unhappily society disregards them at its peril." (4) "What is wrong with the world today is greed, immorality and depravity." (5) "It's because I'm so very ordinary really." (6) "Nobody believed in the story of a little brown man dressed in a sheet carrying a bean pole." (7) "The archive, in fact, is not only a collection of documents which can be individually tested; it coheres as a whole." (8) "The Parkinsonism was really the clinching point." (9) "This is a military operation. It would need three armoured tanks, a couple of helicopters with machine guns and about 600 men from 2 Para to stop us." (10) "A little English phenomenon of no special interest."



Seven pictures that enlivened the news in 1983. Can you remember what, or who, they were?



- (1) "I cannot stand hot air." (2) "I find so much to emulate in Winston." (3) "I am not prepared to stagger from compromise to compromise." (4) "I will continue to be the essence of sweet reasonableness." (5) "There is no definition of the poverty line." (6) "I think I could handle a landslide." (7) "I had a caesarean myself. I know about it." (8) "I cannot accept responsibility for those who strike themselves out of a job." (9) "I have got one or two single gloves at home which I kept in the hope of finding the other half of the pair."

QUOTABLE QUOTES

- Who said: (1) "I just cannot stand hot air." (2) "I find so much to emulate in Winston." (3) "I am not prepared to stagger from compromise to compromise." (4) "I will continue to be the essence of sweet reasonableness." (5) "There is no definition of the poverty line." (6) "I think I could handle a landslide." (7) "I had a caesarean myself. I know about it." (8) "I cannot accept responsibility for those who strike themselves out of a job." (9) "I have got one or two single gloves at home which I kept in the hope of finding the other half of the pair."

GOLD-DIGGERS OF 1983

- (1) How did Diane Biliarelli get about 453m? (2) What did Dr Sally ride? (3) Who said: "It will be port wine next time." (4) Miss World 1975 became Bruce Forsyth's third wife. Can you name her? (5) Where did Sabine Meyer cause disharmony? (6) Who said: "I was not aware that political expediency was sufficient grounds for an abortion under the 1967 Act"? (7) Who went to Newnham College, Cambridge, for three years to become "a more marketable commodity"?

POLITICS

- (1) Who called whom "the plutonium blonde"? (2) Who was described as "a constitutional enormity"? (3) Who likened the Communist Party to the Society of Friends as "self-effacing people who did a lot to keep the flag flying"? (4) Who considered whom incapable of knocking the skin off a rice pudding? (5) Who was described as "a dangerous and unstable figure with a nose on the rising Uranus"? (6) How did Emond Bevan distinguish himself politically on February 24, 1983? (7) Who recommended that in the event of nuclear war farmers should drive their cows into deep lane ditches and throw tarpaulins over them? (8) Who thought whom "a good socialist with many admirable qualities - it is a great pity these are marred by his macho-heterosexism"? (9) Who was sacked as a columnist by *Tibbits*? (10) Who considered a Ford Sierra 1.6 "a smashing car"?

DIED IN 1983

- Who... (1) ... was beneficiary in 132 wills and left bequests to 20 women? (2) ... was also known as Ronald Wycherley? (3) ... choked to death on a bottle cap? (4) ... bequeathed the Holy Shroud of Turin to the Vatican?

- (5) ... had been described as "a fat man whose gift for public suffering had enlisted the sympathy of a sentimental people"? (6) ... conked out? (7) ... was brother of Canada's first Canadian-born Governor-General? (8) ... died of MND, also known as Lou Gehrig's disease? (9) ... came to fame via a girl's eye sliced in half by a razor and a dead donkey on a grand piano? (10) ... loved cats and tried to kill his father? (11) ... collapsed at the despatch box? (12) ... was "the greatest foreign novelist since Joseph Conrad who has paid us the compliment of writing in the English tongue"? (13) ... was twice International Reporter of the Year?

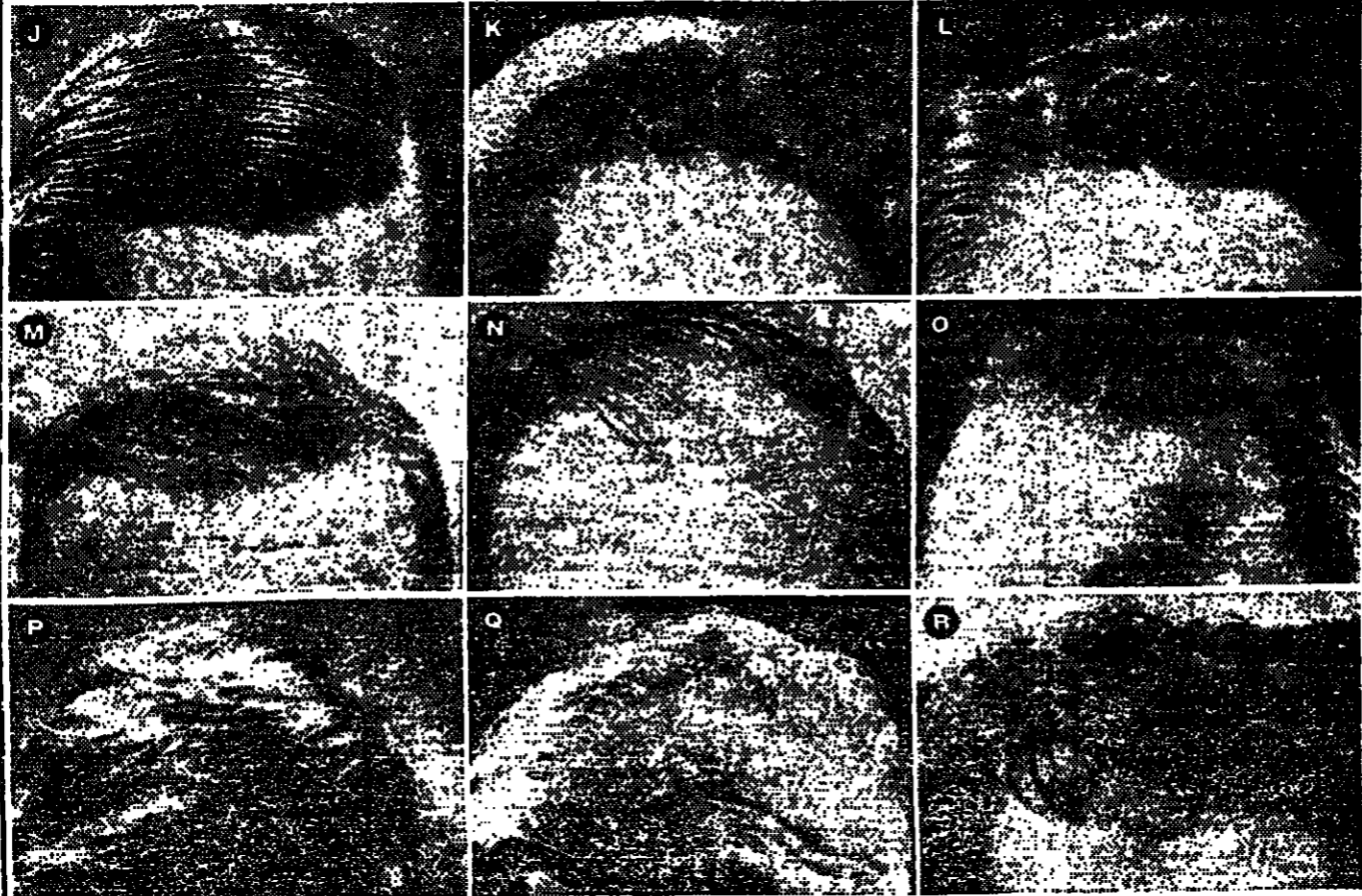
Answers on page 24

MYSTERY HEADLINES

- Can you remember the stories? (1) Use of royal scarlet reclaimed (2) Kelpers bitter over visit (3) Faust sung by pop star too much for Moscow (4) No cream sauce for Mitterrand (5) Massacre of the innocents (6) Tories 'resign in droves' (7) Head's wife puts cat among the pigeons (8) Boat race brings best of British to Manhattan (9) Desert troops forbidden to wear medal (10) Woman who knew spy stood in local poll (11) Sierra campaign in trouble (12) Siberian mammoth goes to the dogs

ANIMALS

- How did "a rat come to the aid of a sinking ship"? Whose death by ... ball in Toronto led ... cution? ... ned to rock ... unprecedented ... was shared by ... wn, Captain ... at, Wayward Lad, Silver Beck and Ashley ... use? ... easter was



Nine crowning glories. Can you tell to whom they belong?

Edited by Shona Crawford Poole

TRAVEL

Adudadu abroad on Greenland's icy mountain

Old meets new in the majestic wilderness where the conquering heroes are the dogs

Mr Kelly Nicholaisen is a genial and optimistic Dane who would probably thrive as a salesman of sand to Arabs or submariners to the Swiss...

Our party of six was there to hike across this impressive wilderness in the traditional Greenland way - on dog-drawn sledges. It is a land little changed since the first explorers arrived...

"Coast" hardly describes this particular meeting between land and sea. From the small, twin-engined aircraft flying high

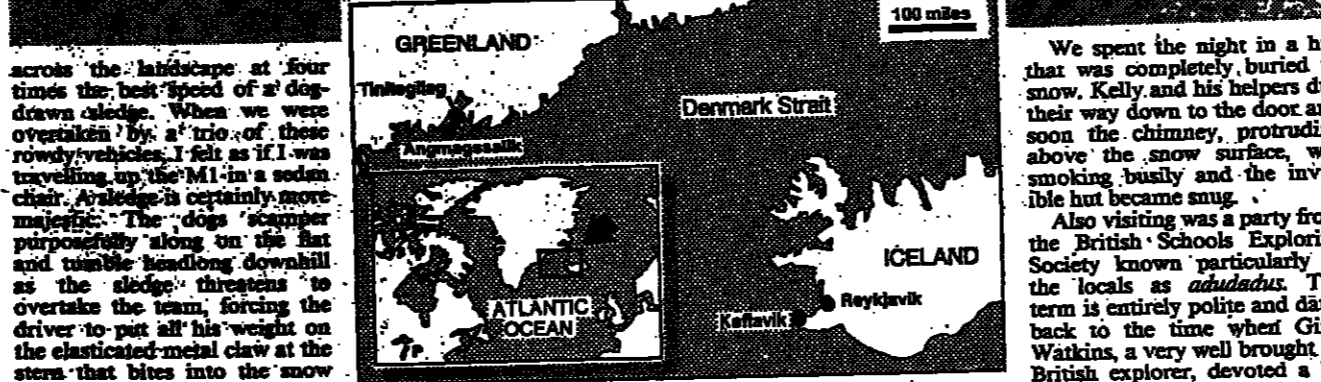
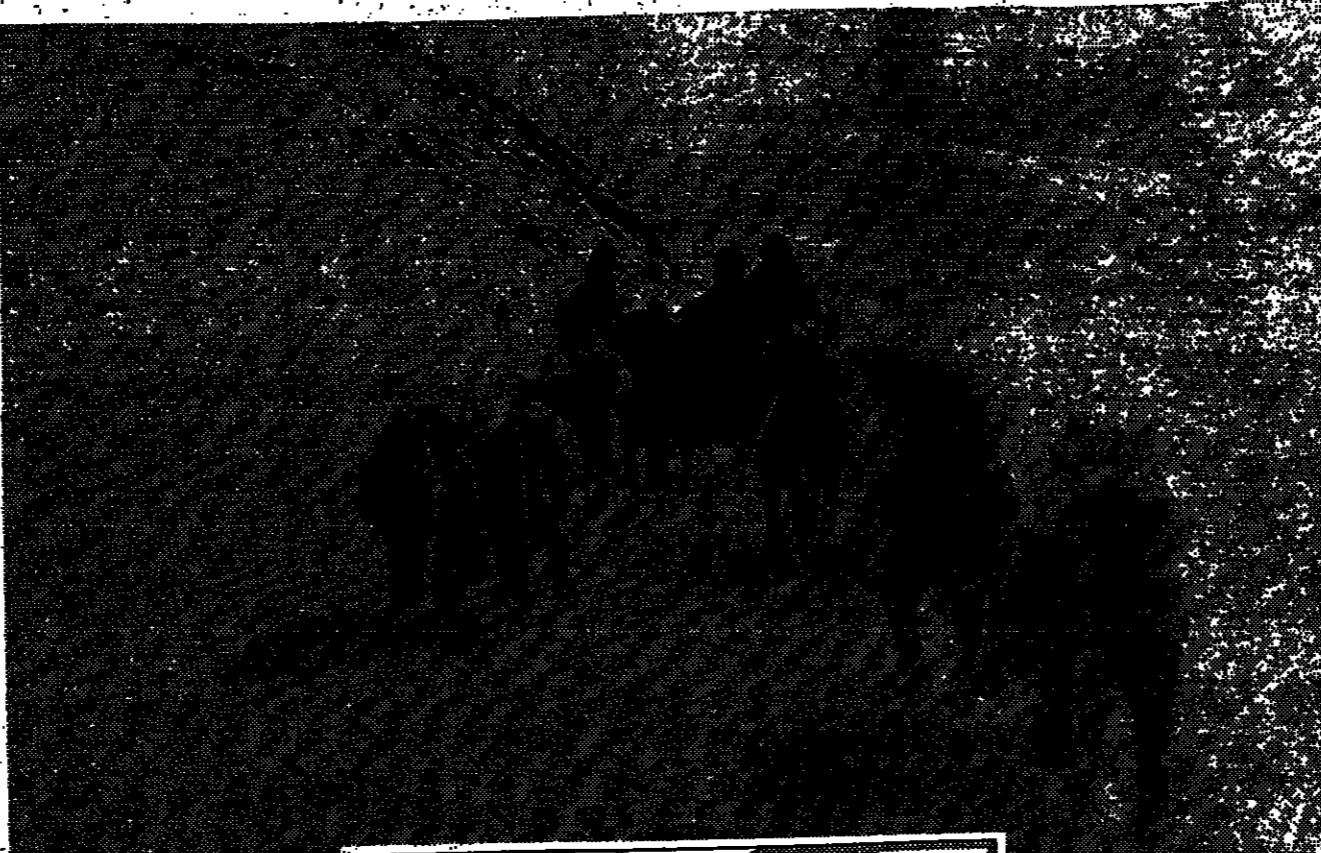
Holidays in Greenland
Tourist cruises, optional excursions, dog sledging expeditions and canoeing are arranged from 24 May to 13 September...

between Reykjavik in Iceland and Kulusuk we looked down on the Denmark Strait, its surface packed with ice. At first the cover appeared thin and unconsolidated...

Kelly pocketed his cordless telephone. He has been "negotiating" with the local weather station. Tomorrow the conditions would be good...

The weathermen kept their bargain and next day was brittle clear. Ten sledges, the largest number the village had seen for years...

Sledges are still in use but modern Greenlanders have a taste for the fast, motorized skidoos that scream and bounce



across the landscape at four times the best speed of a dog-drawn sledge. When we were overtaken by a trio of these rowdy vehicles, I felt as if I was travelling up the M1 in a sedan chair...

Fashionable forays along the Riviera

Tobias Smollett, Scottish physician and writer, let the cat out of the bag when he published Travels Through France and Italy in 1766. Three years earlier, heartbroken after his only daughter's death from consumption...

And of the climate: "Many people, even of condition" at Nice, have no fire in their chambers, during the whole winter. And for signs of antiquity in the neighbourhood...

Tourism had arrived on the Riviera. And it has grown ever since. At first the magnet was the winter climate. Throughout the nineteenth century...

In 1922, a certain Mr and Mrs Murphy, a wealthy American couple who were the inspiration for the characters of the Divers in Scott Fitzgerald's Tender is the Night...



Pablo Picasso: Settled from the Chateau Eza at the top of the village the views are breathtaking. Tiny balconies jut out from the cliff over a sheer drop of 1,300ft...

GINO CARUSO BRINGS YOU THE MAGIC OF ITALY. There are many recipes for a successful hotel and we at Magic of Italy believe the manager is the secret ingredient...

THE SOUTH OF FRANCE. Take a new look at holidays to the Côte d'Azur, Provence, Languedoc-Roussillon in our 1984 Discover the South of France brochure.

Escape this Winter Enjoy a second summer on a sea voyage to South Africa. Leave the Winter behind you on board the luxurious "World Renaissance" bound for the sunny shores of Cape Town...

Bingo! Bango! Bravo! It's Benidorm. Benidorm, in October, is not a bad place to be. The waves of Wales, as the travel industry gratefully calls the summer visitors that provide these stories of wild and fabulous escapades...

VILLAS IN BRITANNY & FRANCE NEW BROCHURE OUT NOW! Our exciting new 1984's brochure on safari and beach holidays offers an unrivalled selection of quality holidays to Africa's most exciting country.

Kenya Safaris and Beaches. Our exciting new 1984's brochure on safari and beach holidays offers an unrivalled selection of quality holidays to Africa's most exciting country.

Corsica Our 1984 Discover Corsica brochure offers you the most comprehensive range of quality holidays to this most unspoilt of Mediterranean islands.

INDIA Nobody knows it better! With over 25 years' experience in making travel arrangements to and within India we can offer you an unrivalled range of quality holidays.

SOUTH AFRICA We know it all! Our 1984 Discover South Africa brochure offers you the most comprehensive range of quality holidays to this most unspoilt of African continent.

Louise Nicholson. Villages: Holiday Villages has a wide range of well-equipped villas and apartments along the Côte d'Azur, between La Lanchette and Eze-sur-Mer.

SUSI MADRONS HOLIDAYS WITH A BICYCLE CYCLING FOR SOFTIES. Delightful Family Hotels BURGUNDY, THE CAMARQUE and THE WESTERN LOIRE FRANCE.

at REID'S MADEIRA. Madeira is Europe's tropical island and for many visitors the legendary Hotel Reid's is Madeira. Why not escape from the grip of winter to this island's warm and gentle climate...

مکان الکترونیک

THE TIMES FINANCE AND INDUSTRY Executive Editor Kenneth Fleet

London dealers ready to venture forth

The Stock Exchange Council has taken another step toward the brave new world of negotiated brokers' commissions and dual capacity with a notice containing rules for International Dealers (IDs).

For good reasons - they include cost as well as expertise - British financial institutions have channelled their restricted appetite for overseas stocks through American and Japanese brokers.

The Stock Exchange Council is treading warily, endeavouring to keep IDs at arm's length from the Stock Exchange proper and at the same time to keep them on a tight rein.

"In recognition of the fact that IDs will be dealing in an international market largely over the telephone and with professional counterparts," the notice says, "they should not be permitted to have a presence on the floor."

They will be limited liability companies, which may be owned by one member firm, or a consortium of firms, which may be made up of broking firms, jobbing firms and non-member firms.

"As an ID will be dealing as a principal, care must be taken to ensure that all transactions are undertaken only with professional or more sophisticated private investors.

Courtaulds into the light

Courtaulds has had four years of gruelling and necessary rationalization under the chairmanship of 43-year-old Mr Christopher Hogg. If penny pinching was the watch word it may longer be so, judge by the five-for-three share exchange.

The terms put a value on International Paint of £154.6m or 45 per cent of the £344m at which the market values Courtaulds. In the year to the end of March, International Paint accounted for only 17 per cent of group sales.

In the first half of the present trading year, International Paint's profit contribution shrunk again in the face of declining world demand for industrial paints.

It has not always been so. Two years ago, International Paint was worth as much in market capitalization as the whole of Courtaulds.

GM-Toyota agreement could lead to wave of mergers

From Bailey Morris, Washington

The United States Federal Trade Commission has tentatively approved a joint production agreement between General Motors and Toyota in a decision regarded as one of the most sweeping rewrites of United States antitrust laws in more than a decade.

By a close three-to-two vote, the commission ruled that the two car companies could jointly build more than 250,000 Japanese-designed small cars at a GM plant at Fremont, California, without violating American antitrust laws.

The decision has cleared the way for mergers among huge international corporations which have avoided such ventures in the past for fear of running foul of strict American antitrust laws.

Dee buys 20 supermarkets

By Andrew Cornelles

Mr Alec Monk's Dee Corporation, formerly LinFood Holdings yesterday announced the £11.8m acquisition of two supermarket companies based in Northern Ireland.

The deal comes after the £44.8m purchase of the 106 Key Markets stores from Fitch Lovell, the food group, last summer. Dee said yesterday that it will continue to operate the two companies, FA Wellworth and Broad-Fields, under their present names.

The companies run 20 supermarkets in Northern Ireland with a total selling area of 280,000 sq ft. In the year to last January 31 they made combined pretax profits of £4.68m.

Pretax profits in the year to January 31, 1984, are likely to be higher. The net assets of the two companies is £17.42m.

Eagle Star bids still in balance

By Our Financial Staff

The bidding for Eagle Star Holdings was left in the balance last night as the West German insurer, Allianz Versicherungs, reported that it had received acceptances from shareholders representing 0.01 per cent of Eagle's shares.

The acceptances take the Allianz stake in Eagle to 30.01 per cent, ahead of the 4.30pm deadline on December 30 set by the Takeover Panel for the final bids to be made.

Last night, there was no indication of any progress in the talks between Allianz and BAT Industries who are competing to win control of Eagle Star. Both bidders have made identical 675p per share bids for Eagle worth £934m.

Although the offers are identical, Sir Denis Mountain, chairman of Eagle Star, favours the BAT bid. He argues that BAT would make a better parent than Allianz and that the BAT offer is better because there is a paper alternative.

If there is no progress in the discussions between Allianz and BAT over resolving the battle for control of Eagle Star the City's biggest takeover battle is likely to be decided by a one-day auction on December 30.

THE BIDDING FOR EAGLE STAR

Table with 4 columns: Date, Bidder, Price, Value. Lists bids from Allianz, BAT, and Grumman.

GOLD

London fixed (per ounce) at \$379.50 pm, close \$379.75-380.50 (£265.50-266). New York latest: \$380.50 Kruggerand (per coin); \$391.50-393 (£273.75-274.75) Sovereigns (new); \$89.25-90.25 (£62.25-63) Excludes VAT.

Institutional shareholders balk at £12m offer

Rift in F Miller takeover

By Wayne Listott

A conflict has developed in the agreed £12m takeover by Nottingham Manufacturers of fellow Marks and Spencer textile supplier, F Miller (Textiles).

Grieg, Middleton yesterday resigned as joint stockbroker to the Glasgow-based, children's clothing manufacturer, Miller.

The broker said that leading institutional shareholders have told them of "their surprise at the low level of the offer."

Almost immediately, GM's domestic competitors announced that they would fight the decision on the grounds that a joint venture between GM, the world's largest car company, and Toyota, the third largest, clearly violated American law.

Mr Lee Iococca, chairman of Chrysler, said "After this decision, what kind of deal will be off-limits?" He vowed to fight the ruling over the next 60 days in the courts and through possible action in Congress.

"It's not right and I will do everything in my power to see that the American public gets a clear picture of just how wrong it is."

Ford also said it would fight the decision. The decision was approved late on Thursday after weeks of negotiations in which the commission tried to meet widespread criticism of the venture by setting strict limits and terms on the deal.

Virani lifts Belhaven stake

By Our Financial Staff

Virani Group UK, the privately-owned trading company of Mr Nazam Virani, yesterday announced the purchase of 750,000 Belhaven Brewery shares taking its stake to 27.31 per cent or 5,938,200 shares.

Recently, Mr Ronnie Aitken, who joined the company as its fifth chairman in 1979, resigned after a disagreement with the joint chairman, Mr Eric Morley, over the proposed sale of Belhaven hotels to Mr Virani.

Last August, Belhaven announced that it had agreed to acquire four former British Rail hotels in Scotland from Virani.

Virani was then going to lease the hotels back and guarantee Belhaven an outlet for its beer. The deal also included the sale to Virani of a Belhaven hotel in Spain for £1.4m.

That would have left Mr Virani with a substantially increased equity stake but the deal has now been put into "abeyance".

On the Belhaven side, it appears that separate bids for the hotel are being taken.

Prices drift lower

With the stock market closing for Christmas at lunchtime yesterday, investors showed little enthusiasm to open up new positions and many decided to postpone decisions until the New Year.

Most of the business was completed after the first hour and prices were left to drift lower because of lack of support. The FT Index, after its record-breaking run closed 1.2 points lower at 775.0.

STOCK EXCHANGES

Table of stock exchange data including FT Index, FT All Share, and various international indices like Dow Jones and Nikkei.

CURRENCIES

Table of currency exchange rates for London Close, New York Latest, and International rates.

INTEREST RATES

Table of domestic and Euro-currency interest rates.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Stenhouse steps up bid fight

The board of Stenhouse Holdings has urged its shareholders not to accept the £53m takeover attempt by its 49 per cent owned Canadian subsidiary, Reed Stenhouse.

The Stenhouse Holdings board is opposing the bid on the ground that it favours the Canadian shareholders in Reed Stenhouse at the expense of Stenhouse Holdings shareholders.

The board said that the 36.5 per cent acceptance level includes prior commitments from Continental Corporation of New York which holds 20 per cent of the shares and the 5.2 per cent holding of the Reed Stenhouse Voluntary Equity Scheme.

This means that acceptances from other shareholders totalled only 11.3 per cent, according to the Stenhouse Holdings board.

Allied Irish bank announced yesterday the first step in its £99m campaign to take over First Maryland Bancorp, of the United States. The bank has taken a 43 per cent stake for an undisclosed sum and said it will be purchasing more shares over the next four years to bring its holding to more than 50 per cent.

British Airways and China's National Airline have agreed on a plan breaking the Chinese carrier's monopoly on the Peking-Hongkong route.

Bankruptcy proceedings for Dunlop's French subsidiary are likely to remain suspended in the new year to keep its factories operating while talks about a possible rescue package continue.

WALL STREET

Share prices retreat in moderate trading

New York (AP) Dow Jones) - Share prices were drifting lower in moderate, early trading on the New York Stock Exchange yesterday.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average was down by 2.75 to 1250.91.

Declines were nearly 5-to-4 ahead of rising stocks.

International Business Machines 12 3/4, up 1/2. Teledyne, 16 1/4, off 1/4. Atlantic Richfield 4 1/4, 1/2 lower. Dna & Bradstreet, 60 1/2, down 1.

Grumman fell 4 1/4 to 26. On Thursday, the company forecast that 1984 earnings would be about this year's expected \$3.80 to \$3.90 a share. Net income in 1982, from continued operations, was \$3.35 a share.

Salomon Brothers and Bear Stearns have dropped Grumman from their buy lists.

Monsanto is off 2 at 105 1/2. Knight-Ridder, 25 1/4 up 1/2. CSX, 25 1/2, up 1/4. AMR, 36, off 1/4. Coleco, 20 1/4, up 1/4. Allegheeny Corp, 63, up 2 1/2.

STOCK EXCHANGES

Table of stock exchange data including FT Index, FT All Share, and various international indices.

CURRENCIES

Table of currency exchange rates for London Close, New York Latest, and International rates.

INTEREST RATES

Table of domestic and Euro-currency interest rates.

Advertisement text: If you have a gilt maturing in 1984...

Advertisement text: What next? During 1984, more than £5,000 million of government stocks will be redeemed by private and corporate investors.

Advertisement for Barlow Clowes & Partners, Gilt Edged Specialists, including contact details and a coupon.

FAMILY MONEY MARKET

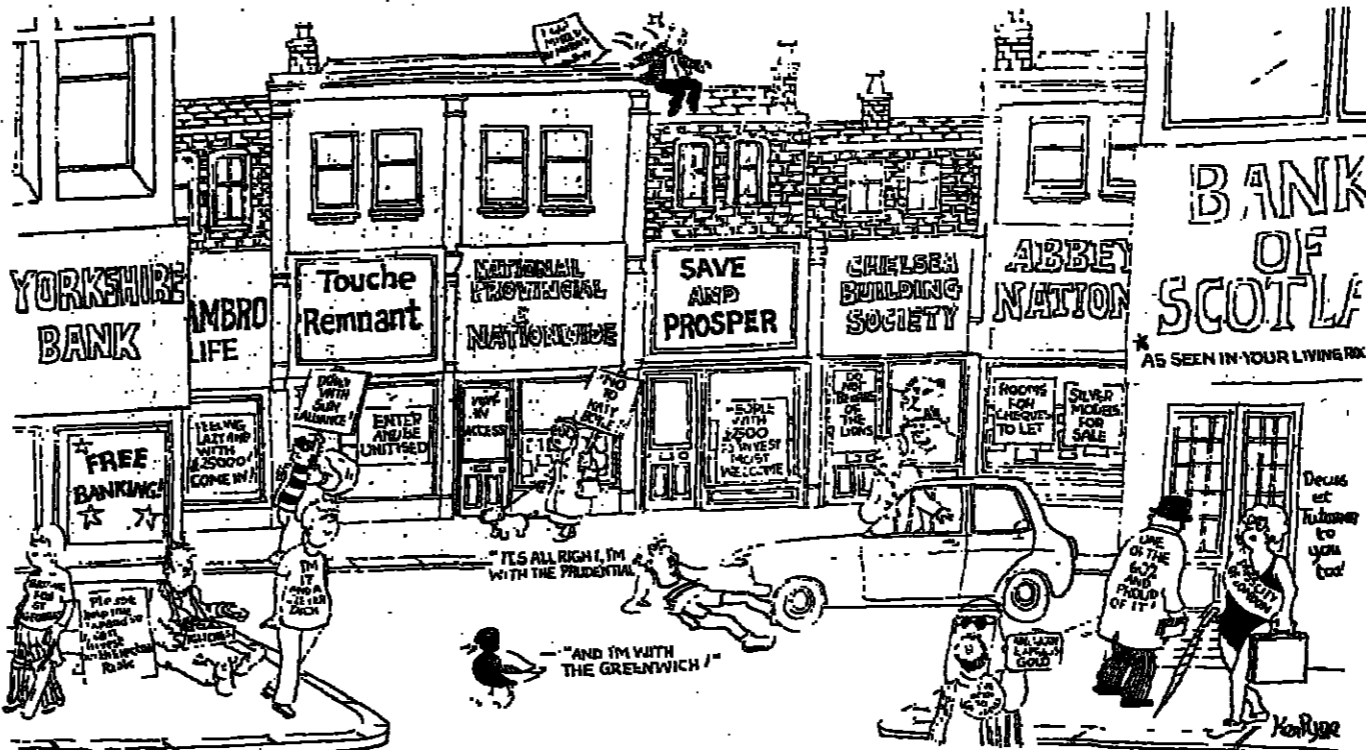
Banking NatWest efficiency machine in action

Having been accused of bearing a grudge against National Westminster Bank...

We hope readers of Family Money pick up many useful money saving tips...

Questions

- 1 Which building societies gave access to Access? 2 What did Save & Prosper do to interest people with bank accounts?



- 11 How many Britons can you bank on? a) 50% b) 63% c) 73% d) 80%

- 17 Why are bank accounts moving to Yorkshire? 18 He could have turned £300 into £485 but he settled for £100...



B: Why are these girls far from stumped by life assurance?

C: When did beauty queens dazzle the City with statistics?

Answers

- 1 National and Provincial and Nationwide, who joined forces with National Westminster and Midland banks...

- 5 Everyone buying a house on a mortgage with the introduction of the new method of deducting mortgage interest relief...

- 18 Ward Lawrence who emerged overall winner of The Times/Money Programme unit trust competition...

A Roll-Up Alternative

Barlow Clowes have introduced PORTFOLIO 78 as a realistic alternative for roll-up fund investors...

Form for Barlow Clowes & Partners, including name, address, and telephone fields.

The European Banking Traded Currency Fund Limited

Currency Markets The international currency exchange markets constitute the largest markets of any kind in the world...

Form for EBC Trust Company (Jersey) Limited, including name, address, and telephone fields.

Table of Base Lending Rates for various banks including ABN Bank, Barclays, BCCI, etc.

You have worked for your money. Does your money work for you?

An investment management service is valuable... our coloured brochure shows you how we can devote our expertise to your advantage.

Vertical advertisement on the right edge of the page, partially cut off, mentioning 'Tobacco' and 'INVEST QUIZ'.

Tobacco brands, especially the expensive, are recovering. Derek Harris reports

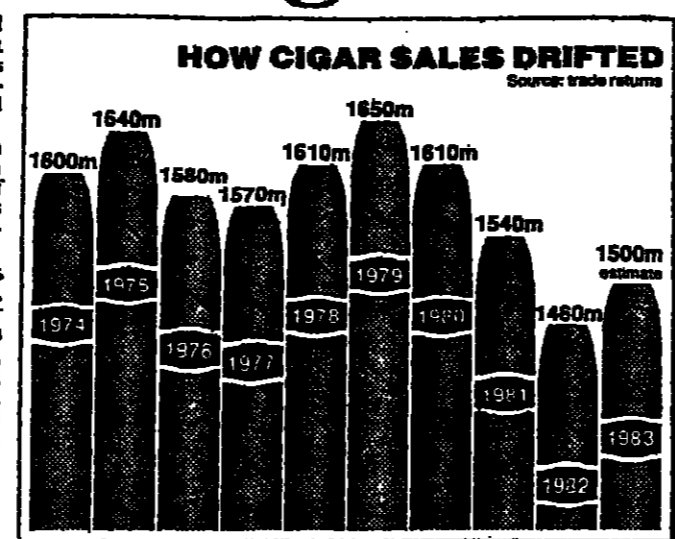
Whiff of success for cigars

The \$300m-a-year cigar market looks like improving its performance this year, possibly by nearly 3 per cent, after three years of falling sales. The improvement has come in the run-up to Christmas, when about a third of all cigars are sold. Cigarette sales have also been recovering but not enough to improve on last year.

Sales of fine cigars, armed up-market, have recently jumped by 15 per cent or so. They had plunged by a fifth in 1981 as company chiefs eschewed hand-rolled Havanas along with Rolls-Royces. Now, after two Cuban harvests hit by storms, importers are worried by future supplies. In the three main categories of the volume market —

machine-sized whiffs and miniatures — the company that appears to be benefiting most is Gallaher, Britain's second largest tobacco manufacturer and a part of American Brands.

The sales recovery has shown most in the whiffs sector, which accounts for three-quarters of all cigar sales. The sector is dominated by Hamlet, Gallaher's Benson and Hedges brand.



Imperial Tobacco, Britain's biggest tobacco manufacturer, dominates the larger cigar market, with its Wills' Castellans and Wintermans half coronas, one of the Dutch range which it imports. The panatella sector, accounting for 10 per cent of all cigar sales is the least buoyant, according to Imperial.

Imperial also dominates the miniatures market, its Tom Thumb brand being market leader with Winterman's Cafe Creme as number two. The miniatures sector has merely stopped declining.

The whiffs sector is showing a recovery, that all its brands, including the imported ones have been at least holding on to their sales. The main battle is among the medium-sized whiffs, where Imperial claims a 40 per cent share through Panama and such brands as Embassy Slims, Grandee and John Player Mild.

Gallaher whiffs — Manikin, once Britain's best-selling cigar, is trailing behind at least four Imperial brands with a 5 per cent share. Smokers here do not like its shorter, stubbier, darker-leaf nature, preferring instead, slimmer cigars with lighter wrapper leaf.

As a result, Manikin has changed. Gallaher has retained its leaf formula to give a fuller taste, but has slimmed and lengthened the cigar. The new formula has just gone on national sale after being test-marketed in the south-east. The change looks like stabilizing sales and possibly turning them round.

Mr Moreland-Green said: "The cigar market is pretty steady and conservative, so only a small increase in sales over the next year can be expected." Offsetting the whiffs growth is a declining trend in panatellas, although only peripheral brands have lost sales, he said.

Imperial is inclined to be more optimistic on sales trends. It is looking to possibly 1,500 million cigars going into the trade this year, an increase on 1982 of almost 3 per cent.

By value cigars account for 4.5 per cent of the tobacco market in Britain, compared with 2.7 per cent in the United States, and reflects the way smaller cigars have become more an everyday habit. Fifty-seven per cent of cigars are smoked by lower socio-economic groups.

At the other end of the scale, fine cigars sell about 4.5 million a year, far fewer than they used to and less than 1 per cent of the cigar market by volume. The trade is largely through a handful of London-based importers. One of those is Dunhill, in which Rothman International has a majority stake.

According to Mr Richard Dunhill, the chairman, "fine cigars are up 15 per cent with us. Some manufacturers are claiming more than that."

The top of the new Dunhill range costs £11.50 in an individual box and gives a three-hour smoke. Historically, cigar sales rise and fall according to the availability of disposable income nationally. At least at the top of the market, there is now barely a whiff of recession.

INVESTMENT QUIZ 1984

During 1983, a return of 20% was commonplace. But what will 1984 be like? Will you be able to enjoy returns on this scale? We believe that knowing the markets inside out is vital for success. We also believe that knowing the market dealers is important. And that's why our advice counts.

- 1. Which of these stockmarkets produced the greatest growth in 1983? A. Japan, B. USA, C. UK, D. Australia. 2. Which of these countries has the largest increase in industrial production in the last 12 months? A. Canada, B. USA, C. Japan, D. Australia. 3. If you'd invested in a unit trust investing in the USA on 1.1.83, how much would the weakness of sterling have been worth to you? A. 1%, B. 1.5%, C. 2%, D. 2.5%. 4. In the past twelve months, one major economy has managed to keep its inflation rate below 1%. Which country is it? A. Switzerland, B. West Germany, C. Japan, D. USA. 5. Which of these markets is our recommendation for 1984? A. Japan, B. USA, C. Canada, D. Australia.

To: Reed Stenhouse Gibbs, FREEPOST, London SW1W 0BR (no stamp required). Tel: 01-730 8231. Please contact me with details of your "Strategy For 1984" — without delay. Name: Address: County: Tel. No: Present Income: Date of Birth: Tax Rate: Lump sum amount available for investment: Amount available for regular savings: per year/month. Licensed Dealer in Securities. Group established in 1904, 187 offices in 31 countries. Registered in Edinburgh No. 47984. REED STENHOUSE GIBBS

WALL STREET

Table of Wall Street news and prices for various stocks and commodities. Includes columns for stock names, prices, and market movements.

COMMODITIES table listing prices for various goods like oil, wheat, and sugar. Includes sub-sections for LONDON COMMODITY PRICES, LONDON METAL EXCHANGE, and COFFEES.

ROLL-UP ALTERNATIVES Portfolio 30. Capital Gains. A method of buying and selling gilts in order to make full use of Capital Gains exemptions. Portfolio 30 Barlow Clowes & Partners offer a fully automatic service which achieves this for you, without any action on your part following investment. Portfolio 30S A subscription service that sends you on average 6 personal reports a year — telling you the next gilt to buy and when — so that you can achieve maximum tax efficiency from Short Dated Gilts. Portfolio 30S is a subscription service only. Barlow Clowes & Partners Gilts Ltd Specialists. To: Barlow Clowes & Partners, Warnford Court, Throgmorton Street, London EC2N 2AT. Telephone: 01-588 0838 (24-hour answering service). Please send me details of PORTFOLIO 30 without obligation or PORTFOLIO 30S. Name: Address:

Unit Trust Prices - change on the week. Large table listing numerous unit trusts with their respective prices and weekly changes.

RECENT ISSUES table with columns for title, price, and change.

BRITISH STOCKS table with columns for company name, price, and change.

LONGS table with columns for company name, price, and change.

COMMONWEALTH AND FOREIGN table with columns for country, price, and change.

LOCAL AUTHORITIES table with columns for authority name, price, and change.

DOLLAR STOCKS table with columns for company name, price, and change.

BANKS AND DISCOUNTS table with columns for bank name, price, and change.

BREWERIES AND DISTILLERS table with columns for company name, price, and change.

COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL table with columns for company name, price, and change.

MARKET REPORT by Michael Clark

Buyer worries Distillers

News is expected in the New Year that a mystery buyer has built up a 4 per cent stake in Distillers, Britain's largest exporter of Scotch whisky.

Account days: Dealings began Dec 12. Dealings end Dec 29. Contango Day, Dec 30. Settlement Day, Jan 9.

210p a share. Courtaulds slipped 1p to 126p. Meanwhile, the Lloyds Bank pension fund has found itself the owner of a 5.5 per cent stake in Crystallate Holdings.

It has been a good account, so far, for the discount houses. All week, the shares have responded to whispers of a tripartite merger of some sort.

Crystallate slipped 1p to 199p on the news. Sir Monty Finiston is taking up an option to buy 100,000 shares in Metal Securities.

THE TIMES 1000 1983/84. The World's Top Companies. Full statistical details and addresses: UK, Europe, USA, Japan, Hong Kong, Australia, Canada, Singapore, etc.

Table with columns: High, Low, Company, Price, Change, % P/E.

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STERLING: Spot and Forward. Money Market Rates. Other Markets. Dollar Spot Rates. Euro-\$ Deposits. Gold. MISCELLANEOUS. UNLISTED SECURITIES.

West. Media wants a job in England. Fixtures. RUGBY UNION. CHALLENGE CUP. First round.

FOOTBALL: CHRISTMAS RUSH BEGINS ON BOXING DAY MORNING

West Ham's fall is Tottenham spur

By Stuart Jones, Football Correspondent
The first division's marathon men are about to hit "the wall." For four months they have been running at a regular pace, as the halfway stage of their elongated race comes into view, they now face a cruelly short, sharp sprint. Over the festive period most teams will be required to play four matches in eight days.



Keeping injury at bay: Robson hoping for a Boxing Day return

Melia wants a job in England

Jimmy Melia, who took Brighton to their first FA Cup final last season, is making a success of his coaching job with the Lisbon second division team Belenenses, but is anxious to return to English football.

Scotland with northern accent

By Hugh Taylor
The crack European teams, with possession football the key. Nevertheless, it was not today that the style of Aberdeen is almost the facsimile of that of the great Celtic team whom Stein himself guided to European Cup glory in 1967.

United had expected to be without their captain, Robson, until at least the New Year but the Old Trafford staff have been astonished by his recovery from a severely bruised instep.

Mick Brown, the assistant manager, was "shocked by the extent of his injury in Monday's Milk Cup defeat. When he took his boot off, his foot seemed to explode."

Busy Bath over-indulge in the festive season

By David Hands, Rugby Correspondent
Christmas is a time of over-indulgence and some clubs are in danger of suffering from fixture indigestion. Bath, for instance, may be making too much of a good thing, with games against Pontypool last night, Clifton on Boxing Day, improving Northampton a week today and Cardiff two days later.

South on the high road

By Iain Mackenzie
The Scottish district championship reaches its climax today when South meet Glasgow at Hawick in what is in effect the playoff for the title.

Match to aid blind soldier

Newbridge are to play a charity match in aid of a 20-year-old Gwent soldier, Andy Bull, who was blinded by a terrorist bomb in Belfast this year.

Sporting oddities in the passing parade

When chance was the fool's name for fate
To win is human; to foul things up on a cataclysmic scale is a talent of a higher and rarer order. For this has been a year of twin-left-footed forwards, of leaden-shod athletes and jockeys and aimmen with haywire steering, or error piled on sporting error, a year when, as undying glory beckoned, the hapless holed out on the year's whoopee cushion, and not the blunder - like all other years.

Advantage is with Widnes

By Keith Mackillop
The busy Boxing Day programme includes not merely the usual outstanding derby games, but a top of the table encounter. The present leaders, Bradford Northern, entertain the perennial challengers, Widnes, in a game which should give Odsal its biggest crowd of the season.

RUGBY UNION CLUB MATCHES

Bath v Colton
Bristol v Old Pacifics
Bristol v Newton Park
Bristol v Sale
Cardiff v Pontypool
Ebbw Vale v Aberystwyth
Gloucester v Ludlow
Gloucester v Llandovery Castle
Llanelli v Llandovery Castle
Llanelli v Llandovery Castle

RUGBY LEAGUE Advantage is with Widnes

The busy Boxing Day programme includes not merely the usual outstanding derby games, but a top of the table encounter. The present leaders, Bradford Northern, entertain the perennial challengers, Widnes, in a game which should give Odsal its biggest crowd of the season.

FOR THE RECORD

ICE HOCKEY
NATIONAL LEAGUE: Philadelphia Flyers 5, New Jersey Nets 6; Quebec Nordiques 4, Montreal Canadiens 1; Minnesota North Stars 6, Boston Bruins 2; New York Islanders 6, Washington Capitals 1.

World stops for Irish

Berne (Reuters) - the meeting to arrange the 1986 World Cup qualifying stage fixtures for the European zone's group six - comprising Denmark, Republic of Ireland, Norway, Soviet Union and Switzerland - has been postponed until January 19 or 20 because a national coach is on holiday.

Rush job a mistake

By Hugh Taylor
Ian Rush hit his 20th goal of the season, against Birmingham City at Anfield on Thursday night, almost by accident. He sealed Liverpool's 3-0 Milk Cup fourth round replay victory by hitting a 74th minute penalty past Cotton.

Independent are champions

Buenos Aires (Reuters) - Independent beat Racing Avellaneda 3-0 to become first division champions of Argentina for the eleventh time. San Lorenzo finished runners-up after beating Platense 2-0.

World stops for Irish

Berne (Reuters) - the meeting to arrange the 1986 World Cup qualifying stage fixtures for the European zone's group six - comprising Denmark, Republic of Ireland, Norway, Soviet Union and Switzerland - has been postponed until January 19 or 20 because a national coach is on holiday.

World stops for Irish

Berne (Reuters) - the meeting to arrange the 1986 World Cup qualifying stage fixtures for the European zone's group six - comprising Denmark, Republic of Ireland, Norway, Soviet Union and Switzerland - has been postponed until January 19 or 20 because a national coach is on holiday.

Fixtures for today and Boxing Day

Table listing football fixtures for today and Boxing Day across various divisions including Third, Scottish premier, Scottish first, Scottish second, and Fourth divisions, as well as other sports like Hockey and Rugby League.

RUGBY UNION CLUB MATCHES

Aberavon v Maesteg
Barnetley v Cambridge U
Cardiff v Swansea
Gloucester v Ludlow
Gloucester v Llandovery Castle

Vertical text on the right edge of the page, including a large 'S 1000' and various small advertisements and notices.

CRICKET: A GOOD WICKET IN MELBOURNE, A WET WICKET IN MADRAS

Australia lose Hogg and Pakistan gain confidence

From Ian Brayshaw, Melbourne
Rodney Hogg, the Australian fast bowler, has withdrawn from the team for the fourth Test match against Pakistan...

W Indian innings back on even keel

Durban (Reuter) - A sparkling century by Alvin Kalicharran helped carry the unofficial West Indian team to comparative safety on the opening day of their four-day match against a South African XI yesterday.

Australia almost at breaking point as the Swedes relax

Melbourne (Reuter) - With the Davis Cup final between Australia and Sweden only two days away, neither country is certain of which players to select...



Cash: feeling the tension

McNamee had a sharp edge over Cash in the first session and the 18-year-old's temper flared briefly when he missed a return...

Botham case unresolved

Donald Carr, the secretary of the test and County Cricket Board, will make one last attempt today to dissuade Ian Botham from playing football for Scotland...

Rain washes out first day of Test

Madras (Reuter) - Incessant rain has already washed out today's opening day in the sixth and final Test match between India and West Indies...

Sapsford last to go

Danny Sapsford, the last British representative in the boys' competitions in the Orange Bowl world junior championships in Miami...

Byes for top four in Masters

New York (Reuter) - Mary Wilander, Ivan Lendl, John McEnroe and Jimmy Connors, seeded one to four respectively, were given first round byes in yesterday's draw for the \$400,000 Masters tournament...

HOCKEY Cheshire to settle argument

An argument will be settled in the traditional Boxing Day rivalry between Cheshire and Lancashire at Bowden, (2.15). Lancashire need to win a draw will be enough to take Cheshire into the preliminary round of the county championship...

YACHTING Britons sail in by 13 runs

From John Robertson, Sydney
It was a mixed day of work and relaxation here yesterday for the British team contesting the Southern Cross Cup...

The cup runneth over

Düsseldorf (Reuter) - Six of the world's top eight players, with the strongest field in the 1984 World Team Cup for record prize-money of \$531,000...

Life at the top of the slopes is hard for the unsung heroes

Val Gardena, Italy (Reuter) - The downhill skiers of Switzerland and Austria are national heroes but their most unknown challengers from Britain face an uphill struggle for honours...

GYMNASTICS Putting art at risk

Gymnastics' trend of developing high-risk moves means that the artistic side of the sport is losing out, Eberhard Gienger, the former West German world horizontal bar champion...

Chinese launch full scale challenge Team of 200 for the Games

Peking (Reuter) - China will send 200 competitors to the 1984 Olympic Games in Los Angeles even though they have a long way to go to catch up in some events...

RACKETS Spurling's service is decisive

By William Stephens
Adrian Spurling, of Tonbridge, yesterday joined the roll of public schools rackets singles champions on the H.K. Foster Cup...

Uphill struggle for Britain's World Cup downhill skiers

Val Gardena, Italy (Reuter) - The downhill skiers of Switzerland and Austria are national heroes but their most unknown challengers from Britain face an uphill struggle for honours...

Wetherly select... From America... The veteran... Wetherly select...

CONDITIONS AT EUROPEAN SKIING CENTRES
ITALY, SPAIN, SWITZERLAND, NORWAY
Table with columns for location, depth, state of snow, weather, and temperature.

هكذا من الأصل

RACING: BREGAWN WAITS ON THE GOING IN CLASSIC ENCOUNTER AT KEMPTON PARK

Kempton Park

Wayward Lad's waiting game to pay off again

By Michael Phillips, Racing Correspondent... With Bregawn, Brown Chamberlain, Fifty Dollars More, The Mighty Mac and Wayward Lad all standing their ground for Monday's King George VI Steeplechase...



Wayward Lad shows the sort of spring-heeled jumping that has taken him to favouritism for the King George Chase

GOING: good. Total: double 1.40, 2.45. Treble: 1.10, 2.15, 3.15... 1.40 PORTWINE CHASE (Novices; £2,434; 2m) (7 runners)...

1.10 FOODBROKERS ARMOUR HURDLE (Novices; £5,848; 2m) (10) 399-112-212 DESERT ORCHID (D) (M) Drayton... 1.40 LADBROKE CHRISTMAS HURDLE (Novices; £15,776; 2m) (10)...

2.15 KING GEORGE VI CHASE (Grade I; £21,768; 3m) (11) 401-12211-1 BREGAWN (D) (M) Kennedy W D... 2.45 BOXING DAY HURDLE (handicap; £2,880; 2m) (14)...

3.15 FALKLANDS CHASE (handicap; £2,590; 3m) (11) 2011-244-1 CHIMSON EMBERS (D) (M) Mrs S Smart... 1.0 ROWLAND MEYRICK CHASE (handicap; £2,266; 3m 100yds) (8)...

2.35 CASTLEFORD CHASE (Handicap; £3,616; 2m 50yds) (6) 1111-111-11 BADSWORTH BOY (D) (M) (D) Armitage... 3.10 CHRISTMAS HURDLE (Div I; 4-y-o; £690; 2m) (18 runners)...

Wetherby selections... George Syrett, the veteran amateur rider, has promised to give the Jockey Club a very tough ride on his outstanding horse to renew his licence...

The extraordinary aspect is that the "big five" are trained by just two men - Michael Dickinson and Fred Winter. Winter's own link with the race now goes back more than 30 years to 1952...

Now, with all respect to Roddy Armitage and Two Swallows, the only other runner declared for Monday's race - only Winter stands in the way of the Dickinson family retaining their vice-like grip...

1.230 ST OWEN HURDLE (Div I; novices; £834; 2m 4f) (16 runners) 1-6221 CYCLIC TIME A Turley 5-11-7... 2.0 FALCONRY CHASE (handicap; novices; £1,568; 2m 4f) (11)...

1.15 OLBURY CHASE (handicap; £1,312; 3m 2f) (12) 3-16-0 GALLEDON BEACH (C) J Edwards 7-11-7... 3.15 WERKIN HURDLE (handicap; novices; £880; 2m) (17)...

1.45 HARRY BROWN CHASE (handicap; £3,501; 2m 4f) (11) 1-11-1 MELLYBURN (D) M Dickinson 5-11-18... 1.55 MONEY FROM AMERICA, 1.0 Prince Rowan, 1.35 Mac Park, 2.5 Forgive N' Forget, 2.35 Badsworth Boy, 3.10 Bright Sherif.

Earlier in the afternoon the Ladbrokes Christmas Hurdle looks like being the perfect foil for the big steeplechase with the champion hurdler, Gaye Brief, and Dawn Run taking one another on again...

2.0 POTT HOLME CHASE (handicap; £1,282; 3m 100yds) (11) 6-20-0 MASTER MELODY W Haxford 12-11-7... 2.30 BOXING DAY CHASE (handicap; £1,238; 2m 100yds) (9)...

3.0 ST IVIN HURDLE (Div I; novices; £780; 2m 4f) (14) 4-0-0-1 SHOW HOUSE J Gilroy 5-11-7... 1.35 CORAL HURDLE HURDLE HANDICAP (£3,254; 2m) (24)...

2.45 WALSALL HURDLE (handicap; £1,318; 2m) (20) 3-13-0 JOULOUVILLE (D) M J Patten 5-11-12... 1.15 LIMBER HILL CHASE (novices; £1,042; 2m) (11)...

1.45 KILVINGTON HURDLE (handicap; £1,314; 2m 4f) (11) 1-1-1 GRUNDERS (D) E Cuthie 5-12-0... 1.25 MARNIE'S GIRL, 1.15 Cyranidam, 1.45 Cap Too, 2.15 Red Mills, 2.45 Chubbuck, 3.15 Londolozi.

Remember Forgive N' Forget

By Michael Seely... Forgive N' Forget can take his first step along the road towards chasing fame by winning the John Haggas Memorial Novices' Chase at Wetherby on Monday...

2.5 BETTER BET CORAL CHASE (handicap; £1,954; 2m 5f) (15) 5-3-0-0 TOM'S LITTLE A (D) W Wiggins 7-11-8... 3.15 HARRY DOFOSSE CHASE (handicap; £1,970; 3m 1f) (16)...

1.0 DAILY MIRROR CHASE (handicap; conditional jockeys; £2,141; 2m) (13) 1-11-1 WANNY GARD (D) Thorne 5-11-8... 1.35 CORAL HURDLE HURDLE HANDICAP (£3,254; 2m) (24)...

Wincanton selections... 1.230 Deby Dilly, 1.0 Water, K. 1.35 Rigton Beau, 2.5 Lodge's Tancer, 2.35 Koga Way, 3.5 Rose Ravine.

Market Rasen selections... 1.25 Marnie's Girl, 1.15 Cyranidam, 1.45 Cap Too, 2.15 Red Mills, 2.45 Chubbuck, 3.15 Londolozi.

Kempton selections

By Michael Phillips... 1.240 Captain Dynamo, 1.10 Desart Orchid, 1.40 Gaye Brief, 2.15 Wayward Lad, 2.45 Harcourtch, 3.15 Tracy's Special.

Wetherby

By Michael Phillips... 1.230 CHRISTMAS HURDLE (Div I; 4-y-o; £690; 2m) (18 runners)...

Wolverhampton

GOING: chase, good to firm; hurdles, good... 1.25 NETHERTON HURDLE (4-y-o) handicap: £1,205; 2m 4f (15 runners)...

Wolverhampton selections... 1.245 Sandwallow, 1.15 Mist Srenak, 1.45 Mullacurry, 2.15 Ardent Spyr, 2.45 John's Present, 3.15 Pit Your Wits.

Huntington

By Michael Seely... 1.230 ST OWEN HURDLE (Div I; novices; £834; 2m 4f) (16 runners)...

Huntington selections

By Michael Seely... 1.230 Mighty General, 1.0 Takaflexion, 1.30 Ash King, 2.0 Netherbridge, 2.30 Jubilee Medal, 3.0 Show House.

Trainers' preferences

The following is a list of preferences for those horses declared at Kempton Park, Wetherby, and Wolverhampton on Saturday...

Wolverhampton selections... 1.245 Sandwallow, 1.15 Mist Srenak, 1.45 Mullacurry, 2.15 Ardent Spyr, 2.45 John's Present, 3.15 Pit Your Wits.

Hurdles campaign is on for So True

By Phil McEwan

So True, only just short of top class of the year, is to be aimed at the Triumph Hurdle and will make her debut over timber at Chesham on Tuesday.

Toby Balding, the filly's trainer, and Miss Bridget Swire, her owner-breeder, thought long and hard before deciding to campaign her over hurdles.

"She is a valuable property and we were not sure whether to risk her," Balding said. "But she has schooled really well, loves soft ground and Miss Swire is keen that she should take her chance. My only doubt is that she is not very big."

So True will have her first run in the Fife Hills, the race in which Decent Fellow, who trained by Balding, made his debut seven years ago. Decent Fellow, who is trained by Balding, was the best horse he has trained, went on to finish second in the 1977 Triumph Hurdle and won the Irish Sweeps Hurdle later that year.

"If she runs well at Chesham, she will take take in the Stroud Green Hurdle at Newbury and the KP Hurdle at Kempton before tackling the Triumph," Balding said. The juvenile championship has never been won by a filly, but Balding confirms that the Triumph was "very much" her target.

Regardless of how she fares over hurdles, So True stays in training for the 1984 Flat season and Balding already has her earmarked for a group two race at Sandown in April. This year she beat Shafiq Dancer, the subsequent Irish Sweeps Derby winner, at level weights in the Easter Cup at Sandown and twice finished second in group company, chasing home Give Thanks in the Midlands Stakes at York and Jupiter Island in the St Simon at Newbury. All these

Toby Balding expanding his Flat team

Races were run on soft ground and reference for some give underfoot means she will have a better chance than most high-class Flat recruits of reproducing her best over hurdles.

Balding and Miss Swire have high hopes of a big-race double on Tuesday, as Lucky Vane has a leading chance in the Coral Welsh National. The eight-year-old has won his only two races this season at Devon and Exeter and Warwick and has been trained with the Chepstow race in mind this winter rather than the Grand National.

"We may still have a crack at Aintree, but time is on our side and we'll probably wait until next season," Balding said. The Weyhill trainer is enjoying his best start to a season for several years with 16 winners to date, ironically, though, he is cutting back on National Hunt operations and expanding his Flat team. "I have 20 good young colts and should win races with all of them if I do everything right," he said.

Leaders over the jumps

Table with columns: TRAINERS, JOCKEYS, and race details including names like J Jenkns, J Francis, M Gilford, etc.

Newton Abbot

Table with columns: Going: heavy, 12.15 SOUTH WEST HURDLE, 1.00 Olden Handicap, etc.

1.15 MID DEVON CHASE

Table with columns: 1.021 Crowning Moment, 1.030 Chesham Handicap, etc.

1.45 SOUTH WEST HURDLE

Table with columns: 2.00 Stand Easy, 2.005 Play The Knees, etc.

2.15 CHRISTMAS HURDLE

Table with columns: 2.00 Houghton Weaver, 2.000 Little Tompkins, etc.

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, DEATHS and other notices. Births: ARCHER - On 19th December, to Sheila and John...

MARRIAGES: COPLAND - GRAMAM, On December 17th, 1983, William J. and Lucy...

DEATHS: BLOOMFIELD - On December 22, peacefully, Cora George, 82, of 22, Barbery...

DEATHS: BROWN - On December 21, peacefully in her 80th year, at St. Peter's Church...

DEATHS: GORDON - On 20th December at All Hallows Hospital, Durrington, Hampshire...

DEATHS: HARRIS - On December 21, peacefully in her 80th year, at St. Peter's Church...

DEATHS: LACEY - On December 23, Barbara, widow of the late Mr. J. Lacey...

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